



# *Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum*

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Printed Quarterly



July 2008

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## PICTURES OF THE PAST



From the Archives of the Black Diamond Historical Society  
Catalog #2008.024, Courtesy Arthur Knudsen, Elvira Viola Buffa Collection

### **The Maragliano Family**

Father Luigi, Mother Maria, Alvira, Irma, Celso and John

Luigi and Maria Maragliano came to Black Diamond from Italy some time before 1890. They had six children, their first was Elvira born in Black Diamond on March 3, 1890. All but one child was born in Black Diamond, two of them having died in infancy.

For awhile the family lived in a log cabin in Black Diamond that they sold to John Banchemo in 1903. They had made the acquaintance with their neighbor Mrs. Minaglia and became good friends.

Sometime before April 1910 the Maragliano Family moved to San Francisco and remained there. It is families such as this that 'Helped Make the Town of Black Diamond and How It Came To Be' at a time when coal was king!



**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:

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360-886-2142 For special tours: 253-852-6763  
E-mail Address: museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org  
Website: www.blackdiamondmuseum.org

**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

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.

This is our Mission Statement that the officers and board members follow as they govern the Society each year. We hold elections for these positions once a year at our General Membership Meeting in October. This year Dorothy Botts and Elsie Parkin have agreed to officiate these elections. The election will be held on Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 during our General Membership Meeting, which starts at 1:30 PM at the Black Diamond Museum. Mail-in ballots are also going to be available upon request. The mail-in ballots should be post marked by Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008.



If you would like to run for office as a board member director, treasurer, secretary, vice president, or president please contact the Society by phone; e-mail, fax, or letter to place your name on the ballot. It would be helpful for you to state the position you desire as well as your address, phone number and e-mail so we can verify your desire and willingness to attend the BDHS board meetings, which are held at the Museum on each third Thursday of the month at 1 PM. We are also looking for insight from any member; who may not care to hold an office; but would like to help us guide the Society. The Black Diamond Historical Society's By-laws state that terms of office shall be one year. The committees that formulated the future goals for the Society have suggested that we change the by-laws to have elections either every two years or every three years. This possible change would require a vote of the membership and therefore this decision choice will be on the ballot in October. The choices will be two or three years or remain at one year.

The 2008 Black Diamond School Annual Reunion was held at the Black Diamond Community Center. I thank

Judith Black and all her staff and volunteers at the Community Center for making this a very successful gathering. The proceeds from each reunion are used to promote and invite for the next reunion. These reunions include students who attended Black Diamond Elementary and went on to schools in Enumclaw. If you were missed on the invitation list - please let us know - and if you know of some others who would like to be invited - let us know. Coke Roberts has written an article in this issue of the Newsletter about the 2008 reunion.

A personal note: I have had the honor of serving as your president this past year and have had the wonderful opportunity to work with very fine people who unselfishly have served our Society. If you would like to meet people that really care about Black Diamond and the surrounding areas please feel free to drop by any time on a Thursday at the Museum. The Museum is open from 9 to 4 on Thursdays and on weekends from 12-3 winter months, and 12-4 Memorial Day thru Labor Day.

Keith Watson

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### Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition

Heritage 4Culture is partnering with HistoryLink in Celebrating nearly 100 years, of The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909. The website <http://www.aype.org> includes information about Black Diamond Historical Society & Museum, and other interesting facts and projects being planned by various King County Museums during 2009.





## EDITOR'S REPORT

Steve Israel



Once again, I would like to thank all of you for your articles.

We have had a nice response to our request for articles about Dr. Botts.

Look for "Letters to the Editor" in this issue of the newsletter.

**Our next deadline for contributions to the newsletter is September 18th.** We love hearing from you, and our readers would get very tired of my ramblings, if nothing else were submitted.

We have worked out our issues with the website, and have our .org domain back up and running. For now, you can use either .org or .com to log onto our website.

For your convenience, we have a list of links to other websites on our website. They include other museums, organizations, and places that relate to Black Diamond or coal mining. Please check them out. Many of them also link to our website to give us more exposure from their visitors.

Keep those cards and letters coming!

*Steve*

## BDHS 2008 CALENDAR

**JUL 12 SAT** 12 Noon - "Heritage Thru Artifacts, Up Close and Personal", at the Museum.

**JUL 17 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting

**AUG 21 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting

**SEPT 1 MON** Labor Day – Museum Open beginning at 12 Noon, with a booth on the Museum platform.

**SEPT 18 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting

**OCT 16 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting

**OCT 18 SAT** beginning at 12 Noon - Book signing by Cory & Diane Olson to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of our *Black Diamond: Mining the Memories* book.

**OCT 26 SUN** 1:30 PM Gen. Mem. Meeting

**NOV 9 SUN** 1:30 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

**ARCHIVES:** Chair JoAnne Matsumura – We are still looking into whether the people of Black Diamond participated in the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. JoAnne is beginning to find clues that there was some participation in this area, such as the Enuclaw Band in the July 3, 1909 parade in Seattle.



**EDUCATION/OUTREACH:** Chair Coke Roberts and Keith Watson have had the following lectures this quarter: About the town of Black Diamond and the trains that serviced the community @ Black Diamond Community Center.

The retirees from Providence Point @ Black Diamond Museum

The AARP group @ Maple Valley Community Center

A Church group @ Black Diamond Museum  
A Home School Group @ Black Diamond Museum

The Hearthstone @ Hearthstone  
A memorial Day Lecture @ Black Diamond Museum

The Evergreen Model A group @ Black Diamond Museum

Don Mason met with a group for Middle Green Water River Coalition

**FACILITIES & GROUNDS:** Chair, Don Malgarini -. The flowerbeds have been improved with topsoil (donated by Palmer Coking Coal), beautiful plants brought in on Arbor Day, and beauty bark (also donated by Palmer Coking Coal). The planting of geraniums along the street by Don (Doc) Botts and Don & Joan Malgarini completed the look.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Chair Dee Israel announced that we now have a total of 301 members.

**PROGRAMS:** Chair Howard Botts – Next year (June 2009) we will be bringing back Welsh Day. Don Mason, Anna Morris, Gino Picini, and Jackie Cedarholm make up the committee for this upcoming event.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Chair JoAnne Matsumura - has been placing articles about the museum and its happenings in The Voice of the Valley, The Heritage Advisor, The AKCHO Newsletter, The Puget Sound Welsh Assoc. newsletter, The Roslyn Miner newspaper and The Black Diamond Eagles newsletter.

**TOURS:** Chair Don Mason –The next Franklin Tour will be in the wintertime when the leaves are gone from the trees, leaving the area with better visibility. The Museum tours are ongoing.

**WEBSITE:** Webmaster Steve Israel - President Watson advised he has set up a new position called Web Program Director. Don Malgarini has accepted that chair position. He will be setting procedures and be responsible for approving information that is submitted to the Webmaster.

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

The next scheduled Society Membership Meeting will be held at **1:30 on (Sunday) October 26, 2008.**





## SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

By Don “Doc” Botts, Volunteer Coordinator,  
And JoAnne Matsumura

The Society welcomes **Marlene Bortelson and Nancy Mead** who have enthusiastically volunteered to be our ‘Dessert Ladies’ for those occasions as needed. Coordinator, **Beth Van Buskirk** fills in when needed. The Society thanks these ladies for satisfying those with a sweet tooth!

We met **Thomas (Tom) Noller, Jr.** on May 22<sup>nd</sup> when he came in to hear the Black Diamond Boys lecture. He offered to join our volunteer family and we didn’t waste any time getting him started. He signed up for helping with the museum grounds, and the next Thursday Crew day he was ready to mow the grass. “I’m happy just to mow”, he said, and we are happy too, as we needed to match that task with a volunteer. Thanks Tom for a job well done!!

A special volunteer was needed for creating the school reunion photograph album, and we were getting close to the date, when young home schooled **Kristin Roelofs** came to the rescue and took on the project. She designed it in traditional black and orange colors and showcased her creative talents. Thank you Kristin for the superb results.

**Susie Thompson** has joined our group of volunteers also. We are pleased to welcome her and her enthusiasm to help keep the museum in the order you have become accustomed to. Her first assignment wasn’t a relaxing sit down desk type task. In preparation for Arbor Day she accepted the task of cleaning the entire inside of the caboose from top to bottom. It has never looked so GOOD!! Thank you Susie for the ‘Mr. Clean’ superb job. And then she served lunch and did more museum cleaning!

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

## GUESTS

By: Don Botts

During the month of **April we had 336 guests, May we had 323 and June (from the 1<sup>st</sup> thru the 19<sup>th</sup>) we had 317 guests** to the Museum. There were visitors from **11 States**: Arizona, California, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas and here in Washington. There were also people visiting from other places, such as Australia, Germany, Italy, Korea, Scotland, St. Peter Barbados and the United Kingdom.

## REMARKS MADE BY OUR GUESTS

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

**Love our history, I like everything a lot, Nice old fashen things, Wonderful for kids, Fabuloses – Thank U, Wonderful caboose, WOW, Sweet, Great historical items, Super museum, Great talk & museum, interesting – friendly, Great fun to see your large collection, Beautiful spot – great memories, What a great treasure, A lot more to see than what meets the eye, Great work, We enjoyed the speakers very much, Fasinating and educational presentation.**

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## OTHER STUFF

Quote: “Tap ‘er Light” Bob Thompson (A mining term meaning Take Good Care and Be Careful.)

Member Betty Van Vleck writes: “I’m so impressed with that newsletter about Black Diamond—I want it for whenever it comes.” (Quarterly, monthly, weekly, etc.)

Bill McKinnon writes: “Dear Keith, Thank you and Coke for your presentation here at the Hearthstone yesterday. It was most interesting, entertaining and well done. I should think it was quite a chore transporting and setting up the extensive display that accompanied your excellent talk.”

## 🔍 LOOKING BACK: THIRTY YEARS AGO

By JoAnne Matsumura

As I prepare this article for our July 2008 issue, it is a few weeks before Memorial Day. A day to remember those that are 'Gone but not Forgotten' some thirty years ago are: Gildo Rey, Mrs. Frances Zumek, Genevieve Habenicht Sewe, Bertha Morgan Milroy, Max Ferlich, Mary Crevis, Albert J. Meedie, Karl Marx Buther, Ivar H. Edman, and Glenn Bremmeyer.



In May of 1978 the Society held their first antique appraisal event at the Depot with a success they had only dreamed of. "It appeared like a treasure trove watching all the antiques come and go."

The work on the "rooms at the south end of the Depot" are taking shape and the results are showing real progress.

The slide show presentations are becoming more popular with shows to The Enumclaw Historical Society, the Auburn/White River Historical Society, Puget Power Company, Northwest Labor Society, the Green River Community College and many others.

The "Oldtimers" picnic was held at Lake Sawyer, and a good time was had by all, even the wet weather didn't dampen their spirits.

The 1979 Calendars (now called historic calendar series) is in full swing and will be ready for sale by October 1978. The 1978 calendars are available at The Greenery and the Diamond Drive Inn Café. The Society also has the Duo-tone litho of the Black Diamond Bakery for sale, (and we still do today)

The Society's Fathers decided that the newsletter would be published semi-annually. They sited a "scarcity of material".

From the 1913 "The Key to Black Diamond Good Eats" book three recipes were featured: Mrs. Rosa Steiert, Mrs. Annie Bergstrom, and Mrs. C. C. Christensen.

Some interesting facts were taken from the 1933 Sparkler and published in the Society's August 1978

Newsletter: Steve Vernarelli played a lot of golf, the boys sports brought home the baseball trophy for King County High School Baseball. In Basketball the Lettermen returning are Eddy, Goldsberry and Walsh, Darby, Fontana and Windbeckler. Over half of the school students enjoyed the Western Washington Fair. The Society also reported that in 1885 "Rails are laid to Black Diamond Mine-The grading was completed 2 ½ miles further, to Franklin, but storms washed some of the

embankments, which Mr. Milner will see that the contractors repair the damage."

"Personality Survey" a biographical sketch of Ann Elizabeth Davis, daughter of T. X. & Katie Jane Davies appears in the August 1978 Society Newsletter. She married Morgan Davis and their five daughters are Evelyn Harte, Verna Thompson, Clara Beers, Jane Hawthorne, and Merle Romedo.

The "History" section is about an early riot in Franklin and "the Franklin miners won the moral victory and lost the war."

The 1978 newsletter featured the Black Diamond School Band in the middle 1930s, and the Ravensdale Baseball Team about 1912

In other news: Preliminary studies by Seattle City Light to build a coal fired power plant. Pacific Coast Coal's mine employees at the New Diamond Mine pose for a photo in the early 1930 appears in the Globe-News-Record Chronicle, News Journal on July 16, 1978. Elaine & Les Griffin continue to restore their Art Gallery in the old King's Tavern building, having signed the closing papers in July 1978. The Benedetti Family gather for a historic photo of five generations. Black Diamond and Enumclaw Girl Scouts sold 7,030 boxes of cookies that will benefit their activity programs. Jules Dal Santo had a garden party of over 60 guests honoring the birthday of Mrs. Dal Santo and Mrs. Emil Rossi.

THAT'S ABOUT IT FOR THIS TIME.  
THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!



## IN MEMORIAM

### ✧ **Gone but not forgotten** ✧

By JoAnne Matsumura

✧ **Melvin A. Larson** was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on September 22, 1913, and passed away at the age of 94 on February 7, 2008. Melvin was a lifetime member of the Society. We appreciate his support and contributions to the Society in maintaining the Society's Museum.

Mel, as he was known, was a WW II veteran and his life's career was as an aviation mechanic. He was proficient and could fix anything, and had a wry sense of humor.

His wife Junette, of 62 years, and daughters, Julie Chamberlin, Sue Larson-Kinzer, and Diane Larson, survives Melvin. His son Curt Bailey preceded Melvin in death.

Interment was at Tahoma National Cemetery on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

✧ **Alma Mattson Malatesta**. She lived over a century of years. Can you imagine it? "She loved life" and lived it. Alma was born in Franklin, Washington to Finnish parents John and Sonja Mattson on March 12, 1907 and was a lifetime resident of the Enumclaw area. She passed away peacefully on May 4, 2008 at the age of 101 surrounded by her family.



She attended school in Franklin and married Carl Malatesta in October 1931. They settled on a farm in the Veazie Valley. She became an avid gardener and grew enough vegetables to feed the family of six, all year. Her descendants learned her gardening skills. She quit gardening outdoors in her mid 90's but continued to garden in-doors with a grow light.

She was an excellent cook and prepared everything from scratch. One of her specialties was spaghetti sauce, a family favorite. An enamel dishpan served as the salad bowl because she did not have a bowl large enough, and always served with the typical

Italian vinaigrette. As a young girl one of her kitchen duties was preparing sugar for cooking. There was no such thing a granulated sugar in her young days. Sugar came in big large chunks and it was Alma's duty to pulverize it into a type of granulated form for cooking.

Her greatest joy was taking care of her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She enjoyed sleepovers. Traveling with family and in the mountain ranges heading to Eastern Washington, you would hear her say, "How good I feel".

Alma was preceded in death by her husband Carl in 1975, sisters Llyne Kump, Pauline Mattson, and brother Otto Mattson.

Her son Houston Malatesta, daughters Phyllis Sambila, Arlene Parkin, and Lois Laush and many descendants survive her.

Inurnment at Evergreen Memorial Park, Enumclaw, Washington.

✧ **Emma J. Ruppert**, a lifetime member since 1986 passed away on June 5, 2008 at the age of 91 years young. She was born April 7, 1917 in Cle Elum, Washington.

She came to Black Diamond in 1955 and resided in the area for over 50 years. Emma also lived in the communities of Renton, Hobart and Auburn.

She was a career homemaker and enjoyed quilting and making rosaries to send to Catholic missions. She was active in the Altar Society at St. Barbara Catholic Church, and loved spending time with her 11 children.

Emma's husband, Shirley, Black Diamond Graduate of the Class of 1931 preceded her in death in 2003.

Emma is survived by sons: John, Dave, Dick, Frank, Harold, and daughters Pat, Rhoda, Mary Ellen, Barbara, Betsy, and Margie, sister Margaret, and 39 grandchildren.

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



## THE CLASSMATES CORNER

### Come and Reminisce in 2008

By Conrad 'Coke' Roberts

With over 100 in attendance the classmates indeed came and reminisced on June 4, 2008, at the Black Diamond Community Center. The Black Diamond Historical Society sponsored a "Reunion" program to honor the Black Diamond citizens who had graduated from the Black Diamond High School. The Society extends a warm thanks to Ms. Judith Black and her team for their generosity and assistance with this event.

The program's Master of Ceremonies was Society Board Member Coke Roberts, who honored the graduates from the 1930's and the four classes from the 1940's. Graduates came from as far away as California and Nevada to share their memories with their classmates and other attendees.

Keith Watson, President of the Black Diamond Historical Society welcomed everyone and invited those attending to visit the Historic Museum.

Speaking for the class of 1942 was John Malgarini who now resides in Los Vegas, Nevada. Coke Roberts recalled the events for the class of 1941.

Also honored were the Botts sisters from the classes of 1937 and 1938, with their brother Donald Botts, graduate of the class of 1941. Margaret White, class of 1939, who now lives in Forks, Washington spoke for her class.

Special recognition was given to Mrs. Ruby Favro Keeny, class of 1926, as the eldest in attendance, at the young age of 101. Also recognized were Don Malgarini and Clayton Mead. Both having attended Black Diamond Grade School, and later were transferred to the Enumclaw schools where they then graduated.

The teachers in the Black Diamond Grade school and High School were remembered for their work in the local schools. Special mention was given to the seventh and eighth grade teachers, Mr. Gildo Rey and Mr. Norman. Also recognized were the Principals, Mr. Edson and Mr. Watson along with Superintendent Mr. Nelson.

We had a good time, good food, and good conversation. Time goes by too quickly when you're having fun! Until next time, Happy Trails!

## ✿ THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES ✿

### Gone but not forgotten

By JoAnne Matsumura



✿ Gene Barnes  
1929-2008

Husband of Debby Evans Barnes  
Brother of Hank Barnes

✿ Robert 'Bob' Davidson  
1918-2008  
Black Diamond Graduate  
Class of 1938

✿ Sherry L. Fields  
1949-2008  
Black Diamond Eagles

✿ William Hampton  
March 17, 2008  
Resident of Black Diamond

✿ Joseph Pierotti  
1968-2008

✿ Harold Woodard  
1926-2008  
Resident of Black Diamond



## ARBOR DAY CELEBRATED

By JoAnne Matsumura

Our first Arbor Day celebration on April 19<sup>th</sup> is a day to remember as can be seen in this photograph. We had ordered sunshine and received a touch of all the four seasons weather———some snow flurries, hail, rain, cool breeze, and finally about 1:15 P.M. there was a clearing and the clouds moved on to the mountains revealing some sunshine.



The children, parents, garden crew helpers, visitors and volunteers left the warmth of the kitchen and scurried out with their plants, tools, gloves and began the digging and planting to the delights of everyone. The children placed a marker with their first name by the plant they planted. It was a fun day and the Community Flower Garden was born.

Several weeks later the warming weather allowed us to plant geraniums all along the guardrail of the Frank Guidetti Memorial Garden. It is a lovely addition to the Community Flower Garden.

This successful event could not have been possible without the help and contribution from individuals, groups and businesses. Our thanks and appreciation goes out to 4Culture and Dr. and Mrs. D. Berg for their financial support, and to Frank Hammock, Kathleen Kear and the Black Diamond Parent Teachers Association for their publicity work.

We also want to thank Palmer Coking Coal Company, and the unsung heroes who provided garden soil, bark, gravel and other supplies for preparing the garden, and to John Morris for delivery service. To the entire Malgarini Family for their year long tender loving care of wintering over last years geraniums for this years planting of over 100 plants is truly a labor of love, and to Don and Joan Malgarini for planting each and every one of the beautiful multi-colored geraniums. Also to Don & Joan Malgarini, Shirley Mead, Anna Morris, and many others who came by with flowers for the garden.

To our Hospitality Chair, Anna Morris and her committee of Nancy Mead, Sara Morris and Johna Thompson for baking the tree and flower shaped cookies, pies and breads, and the fruit bowl we all enjoyed.



We also want to thank the Garden Crew that worked in preparing the grounds, from spraying, weeding, to enlarging the flower beds, and replacing the oak barrel at the front entrance and making a new foundation for it. They are, Donald Botts, Paul Hager, Steve Israel, Don & Joan Malgarini, Don Mason, JoAnne Matsumura, Clayton Mead, John Morris, Gino Picini, Conrad Roberts, Susie Thompson, Keith Timm, Jr., and Keith & Judy Watson.

Enjoy the view of the garden as you walk or drive slowly by.

## BLACK DIAMOND BOYS

By JoAnne Matsumura

The Black Diamond Boys, Conrad Roberts and Keith Watson presented a successful lecture for our Memorial Day lecture series. With only a few seats available we learned just how these young men started off at an early age on their Military Journey, and the adventures they encountered. They weren't sitting in the sun on the sandy beaches of the South Pacific shores.

Conrad's experience of being on board the USS Randolph CV15 when the vessel was hit by a Japanese Kamikaze bomber leaving huge damage that was required to be 'fixed' in two weeks time and be in Guam for further duty. They made it on time, each man doing his part.

Keith's education and earning his 'Dolphins' proved to be the best training a submariner could have. Earning the Dolphins meant that you knew each piece of machinery on board and how to operate it and what to do in a crisis. He shared with the audience how the submarine operates and what makes it work. His talents were tested when deep in the sea the motors died. Because of his and his fellow submariners intensive training that also meant keeping your cool, they did what they had to do, all breathing easier hours later. Keith and the crew aboard the USS Wahoo SS565 continued on its Military assignment.

The excellent exhibits presented were extensive, and included a model of the Submarine USS Wahoo SS565 professionally crafted for Keith. The audience lingered a long time with more questions and comments.

Information on the USS Randolph CV15 can be found on-line at <http://www.hinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/ships/carriers/histories/cv15-randolph/cv15-randolph.html>. For on-line information on the USS Wahoo SS565 go to <http://www.usswahoo.com/>.



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## FINNISH HERITAGE CELEBRATION IN BUCKLEY

By JoAnne Matsumura

The Buckley Finn Hall will celebrate their 90th Anniversary on July 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 P.M. at their annual potluck picnic. Interested Finns throughout the Northwest are cordially invited to this Picnic Celebration bringing their memories to share of past events with other attendees.

The Hall was founded in 1918 and has served the community and for many years was well known for its midsummer Juhannus dances and programs, drawing hundreds of participants from throughout the Northwest. Thanks to President Ron Moulden and Secretary Saima Hyppa, the facility has been upgraded and maintained beautifully.

The Buckley Finn Hall remains the last in the State of Washington. A few years ago the Hockinson United Finnish Kaleva Lodge sold its hall, now leaving the Buckley Hall the last of the many Finnish Halls of previous eras that included Black Diamond's Finnish Hall on Lawson Hill.

The Buckley Finn Hall is located along Highway 410, east on 234<sup>th</sup> Ave E., Buckley, WA. For additional information e-mail President Gary London of the Finlandia Foundation, Seattle Chapter at [garyjondon@comcast.net](mailto:garyjondon@comcast.net).



## BLACK DIAMOND'S NEW LIBRARY

Then and Now

By JoAnne Matsumura

On Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 A.M. the King County Library System held a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house with music and children's program to Black Diamond's new library building located at 24707 Roberts Drive, as can be seen in the accompanying artists rendering photograph. The building of about 5,000 square feet includes more materials, computers, a Children's Area, Teen Zone and Community Meeting Room at a five million dollar cost, and is set with vistas of Mount Rainier and downtown Black Diamond.

In the humble beginnings, the King County Library System began the Black Diamond Branch in 1945 in the depot building now worldwide known as the Historic Black Diamond Museum. Sometime before January 1959, on Washington's Birthday the library moved from the depot building to the teacher's cottage next to the Presbyterian Church that can be seen in the accompanying photograph. The Black Diamond school board recognizing the need for a larger and more convenient library offered the use of its teacher's cottage to the Library Board. This move made it possible to house about 500 more books to a total of about 3000 books, with shelving space about doubled.

On the evening of opening day of that new Black Diamond Library Branch of the King County Library System in the newly refurbished and decorated teacher's cottage there were 216 books taken out with Librarian Mrs. Darrell McCloud. There was widespread community cooperation, the P. T. A. acted as a sponsor of the library, and many of its members and community people provided their contribution of materials toward a better public library.

In 1945 Black Diamond residents had available to them over a quarter of a million books through the King County Library system, and through contract with Seattle Public Library, their supply of over two million books was available to them. Can you imagine how many books are currently available with Black Diamond's new state of the arts King County Library's Black Diamond Branch? I don't think there's a calculator with that many digits—is there?

Visit the new library on Roberts drive or on-line at <http://www.kcls.org>. Happy Reading!



## WELSH WEAVING

By Carolyn Bell

For centuries the Welsh woolen industry was one of the country's most important and can be traced back 2000 years.

In the Middle Ages it was a farmhouse activity. People working wool from local sheep into blankets and clothing. Eventually Pembrokeshire cloth became a trade item but was thick and rough, being designed for hard wear, not appearance. By the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century demand fell.

By mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Montgomeryshire area became the center of flannel manufacture. A farm servant worked in the fields in summer and at the loom in weaving sheds in winter. After 1790 population of Newtown grew rapidly and it had 82 weaving factories and 35 spinning mills.

By 1900 the woolen industry in Montgomeryshire was dead and the Teifi Valley became the new industry center with 325 mills. Since the end of World War One the industry has declined.

The characteristic product of Wales today is tapestry or double woven cloth. This type of weaving was widely practiced in the 18<sup>th</sup> century especially in North Wales and intricate patterns were woven on simple handlooms at that time.

## SPOTLIGHT ON HISTORY

### Whistle Blower

By JoAnne Matsumura

They came as far as the East Coast and California, a gathering of nearly 3000 strong. They closed Railroad Avenue to everything on wheels. They danced in the street, dressed in pioneer outfits, and ate ice cream and ethnic foods from booth vendors. There was special Miner's bread and specially decorated doughnuts from the Black Diamond Bakery. The button box band drew a crowd that wouldn't let them stop playing, and the Welsh choir sang in Welch bringing a tear or two from the assembled crowd. There was a little rain but it didn't dampen the spirits. After all they came to celebrate the first 100 years of Black Diamond's existence, and to see the whistle blower — blow the whistle — one more time.



In 1927 the state closed Mine 11 when it became too dangerous to work, silencing the Mine 11 whistle. To many “bumps”, trapping too many miners to often. Many still remember when the whistle blew people waited—some at home, some at the mine, in the hopes that no one was hurt. “You knew when that whistle went off in a repeat pattern and it wasn't the change of a shift that something was wrong in the mines.”

It was Sunday, June 6, 1982 and Black Diamond's big birthday party had been going strong for hours that morning. Hundreds of people had toured the Museum and were beginning to gather at the platform beautifully decorated with red, white and blue bunting and 400 gloxinias, patiently waiting for the whistle blower to begin the official celebration. At noon the historic Mine 11 Whistle was activated and blew—one more time—for the last time— -to cheers, and then tears for those who had lost their lives. They saluted the flag and sang “America”, clapped for the music of the fourth grade flute band and the fifth and sixth grade band.

Then they sang Happy Birthday “twice” to the Centennial City, after Queen Leeanne Bukoskey and Mrs. Florence Thomas cut the Birthday cake.

The Whistle Blower, founder of the Black Diamond Historical Society & Museum, Carl Steiert, had the honor of being the Whistle Blower, blowing the Whistle—one more time—and for the last time.

## HERITAGE THROUGH ARTIFACTS

### Up Close and Personal

By JoAnne Matsumura

The vein of Black Diamond's rich heritage runs as deep as the 12<sup>th</sup> level of Mine 11 and then some to any vein of black gold around these parts. And that black gold seam of heritage is as wide and the globe's circle. The miners came from around the world to work and left their heritage in artifacts for us to study and enjoy. On Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 4 PM you are cordially invited for a nostalgic tour of the Museum and enjoy your “Heritage Through Artifacts, Up close and Personal.”

It is said that in King County at the turn of the century there were 80 different nationalities representing countries around the globe. In the 1930 Population Census we located thirty different nationalities in Black Diamond representing countries around the world.

Your heritage is here in the Black Diamond Museum represented by the thousands of artifacts, that can be seen, ‘Up Close and Personal.’

It can boggle the mind to wonder how many cabbages went through the grater sliced for kraut making, and the hundreds of pickles soaking in the crock. I remember them tasting better from the crock than the jar! Wonder how many sausages were stuffed and went through the sausage makers? And how many noodles this featured rolling pin rolled out.



*(Continued from Previous Page)*

They say that Drambuie Liqueur from Scotland is good tasting, and the Black Diamond Italian wine can't be matched anywhere. There still are a few Italian plum trees around town, so I hear. The handmade Italian cheese graters never needs sharpening, oh the pounds of cheese they must have grated!

The Welsh woven blanket is impressive, and a short history of Welsh weaving is elsewhere in this issue. The Spanish shawl is colorful, and the Irish linen is tightly woven. Heavy pewter from Belgium, and the England and Bavarian china are thin and delicate. These artifacts are only a sample representing "Heritage Through Artifacts" that are exhibited in the Museum.

Join us on July 12<sup>th</sup> for a nostalgic tour of the Museum and share your own stories of an object you remember in your family. For those of you who live far away your stories are only a computer click away, or send us your personal penned letter. You'll find our e-mail address and mailing address elsewhere in this issue.

## "SMALL TOWN, BIG COMMUNITY"

Labor Day 2008

By JoAnne Matsumura

"Small Town, Big Community" is this year's Labor Day theme for the town's largest annual celebration extravaganza in Historic Black Diamond. The Labor Day festivities will begin on Saturday, August 30, and conclude on, Monday, September 1, 2008.

**We plan on seeing you at our booth on the platform boardwalk of the Museum on Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, noon to 4 PM.** We are planning weather permitting and condition of our 2003 award winning parade train, to be on display on the tracks at the Museum.

The Labor Day Committee will make announcements of awards, the winner of queen or king on Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, at 1:00 PM. This year's 'button' design has not yet been revealed, but entrants for the design must be a Senior Citizen residing in the City of Black Diamond, and also submit their story of "What Black Diamond Labor Days means to you". The winner will be queen or king and ride in an official car in the Parade and the Runners up will be their court.

There will be the usual games with prizes, vendor booths, and plenty of food at the ballpark, and all the family fun you can handle. The car show will again be at the Eagles parking lot.

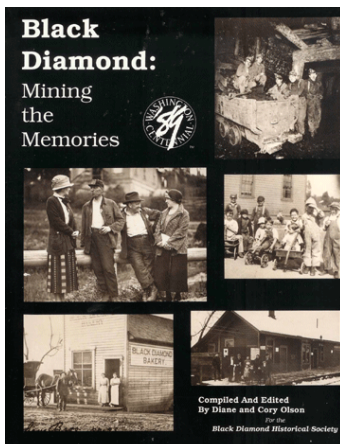
Our October Newsletter will include a special story of past Labor Day Queens and Princesses by our reporter-at-large, Frank Hammock. You won't want to miss it, or the Labor Day Celebration and enjoy peanuts, ice cream, nostalgic candy and more. We'll see you on Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, noon to 4 PM on the platform down at the Historic Black Diamond Depot Museum!

## BOOK SIGNING

**Mark your calendars  
Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Open house from Noon to 4 PM**

**Celebrate the "Twentieth Anniversary Book Signing Event" with Diane and Cory Olson. You won't want to miss meeting them! Watch for more information in our October Issue of the Society's Newsletter.**





**3<sup>rd</sup> quarter**  
**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

To Society Members

		Aug.18	Donald (Doc) Botts
		Aug.18	Marilyn Donati Kienke
		Aug.19	Sherrie Acker
Jul 04	Robert O. Doyer	Aug.23	Frank L. Roulst
Jul 05	Betty Johnson Blakeney	Aug.25	Bill Bremmeyer
Jul 05	William Kombol	Aug.26	Margaret Morganti Vernarelli
Jul 06	Keith Deaver	Aug.27	Annamarie Burke
Jul 06	Jean Mitchell Kelly	Aug.29	Norma Bradley Gumser
Jul 07	Laura J. Trover Shipley	Aug.30	Beth Botts Van Buskirk
Jul 08	Carol Baumgartner	Aug.31	Lynda Dal Santo Maks
Jul 09	Ernie Ammons	Aug.31	Mitzie Barrie
Jul 11	Lorraine Hope	Aug.31	Tom Noller
Jul 14	Kristi Roberts Satterlee	Sep.01	Nancy Hester
Jul 16	Louise M. Davies	Sep.03	David Walsh
Jul 16	Robin MacNeill	Sep.04	Margaret McKibben Fowler
Jul 18	Linda Lewis	Sep.06	Dick Allen
Jul 19	Russell Bryant	Sep.07	Richard Toth
Jul 19	Robert Burke	Sep.07	James D. Carey
Jul 21	Lennie Sternig Witt	Sep.07	Pat Holmes
Jul 22	Bert J. Lombardini	Sep.13	Don Malgarini
Jul 23	Leo Dal Santo	Sep.15	Ted Myers
Jul 25	Lynnett Vasicko Stevensom	Sep.16	Eileen Roberts Hewson
Jul 26	Conrad (Coke) Roberts	Sep.19	Albert F. Guidetti
Jul 27	Don Camerini	Sep.20	Rebecca Teeters
Jul 27	Eleanor Roulst	Sep.21	Sam Logar
Jul 28	Mark Hesselbach	Sep.23	Harry W. Berry
Jul 29	Vera Hughes Toman	Sep.24	Judy Shook Hastings
Jul 29	Clayton Mead	Sep.27	Charles Kessner
Jul 31	Carolyn Christopher	Sep.27	Dorothy Ferrell Laird
Jul 31	Joey Kitz	Oct.01	Olga Grady Swann
Jul 2004	Mama Passarelli's opened	Oct.02	Ray Kravagna
Aug.01	Helen Strom Manowski	Oct.03	Don Covey
Aug.02	Jackie Cedarholm	Oct.06	John Malgarini
Aug.04	Stanley Celigoy	Oct.08	Carolyn Henderson
Aug.04	Dee Robertson Israel	Oct.08	John Herbert
Aug.05	Mrs. Chris Pieren	Oct.11	Armandino Batali
Aug.06	Keith B. Timm Jr	Oct.13	Dan Dal Santo
Aug.07	Mike Pennacchi	Oct.13	Randy Roberts
Aug.08	Carole Brown Watkins	Oct.14	Scott Peterson
Aug.14	Sara DuBois		
Aug.14	Peter Logar		
Aug.14	Joan Nachtshiem Malgarini		
Aug.14	Palmer Coking Coal Co. founded		
Aug.15	Don Lombardini		
Aug.17	Leona Myers		

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

***TO THE GENERAL FUND:***

Henry DeLauro  
Ralph E. Dockham  
Jack Hope  
K-C Food Corp.  
Jeanne Norman  
Paula Perkins  
Mrs. Chris Pieren  
Marie Theilken  
David & Marjory Velthausen

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

Marilyn Giger  
Jaimy McCormack Pellini

***MEMORIAL DONATIONS WERE MADE:***

***IN MEMORY of Frank Grgurich*** by Walter & Joan Clark and Leasha T. Janet.

***IN MEMORY of Anne Poleski Hawthorne***, by Darlene Foulk.

***IN MEMORY of Alma Malatesta***, by Ray Kravagna.

***IN MEMORY of Wilda Morris***, by Pauline Kombol, Jerry & Gloria Thompson and Byron & Janie Parkinson.

***IN MEMORY of Emma J. Ruppert***, by Palmer Coking Coal Co.

***IN MEMORY of Orlando William (Bill) Santi***, by Ron Santi family.

***IN MEMORY of Ena Gaffi Sorensen***, by Paul Mlachnik.

***An additional Memorial donation***, by Leasha T. Janet.

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.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In our previous, issue we asked for stories about Dr. Botts, and these are letters in response to our request.

*“Steve Israel;*

*I noticed the request for information about our trips to Doctor Botts Office.*

*As a child I was forever falling down & would walk over to Dr. Botts office with bleeding knees. Dr. Botts would clean out all the dirt & small pebbles there.*

*One day he said to me, “Laura if you fall down one more time, I’m going to have to cut your leg off”. I don’t know if I believed him but I never forgot.*

*About 30 years later I noticed a small lump in my leg below the knee. It was a small pebble Dr. Botts missed. He was a good doctor & always kind to me.*

*Laura Trover Shipley“*

---

*“Dear B.D.H.S.*

*Enjoyed the quarterly as always.*

*I do have a Doctor Botts story. It amused me when you said, “let us know if Dr. Botts treated you for any illnesses or accidents.” I was an accident being the last of seven children to be born to my parents, Albert and Selma Franz who were fifty-six and forty one at the time.*

*Our family lived on forty acres on the Green River not far from the gorge. I was born on a Sunday night, Dec. 6, 1936 and I’ve heard that it was a cold, snowy winter.*

*When my birth was imminent my father driving a Model T Ford and my eighteen - year old brother Art, holding a lantern, set out for Dr. Botts’ office. The doctor was attending a movie and had to be called out of the theater for the cold ride to our lantern-lit house. When*

they arrived I was already born having been helped into the world by my barely 17 year-old sister, Dorothy (Corlett). Our mother calmly told her what to do and I presume she followed her instructions. Dr. Botts, I've been told, gave my mother a shot of whiskey, checked my mother and me out and went.

It must have been a very innocent time; my brothers and sisters didn't even know I was expected and woke to a little sister. They all went to school with something to share. My sister Margaret told me that when she excitedly told her teacher, that she responded "Oh No!" Times were tough in 1936 and I'm sure the teacher was concerned for my mother and a bit shocked, too. The happening was probably just another day in the life of a country doctor.

Betty Franz Uhrig"

"Dear JoAnne

I hope this letter finds you well and happy. I appreciate your continued devotion to the Historical Society...thank you.

I'm always anxious when I receive the latest publication of the Historical Society newsletter and can read about people and events of my hometown. I want to thank other dedicated members for their hard work.

When I read about Dr Botts and your request for stories, I began to reminisce about my experiences concerning him through the years.

The first event happened when I was 5 years old. I had just picked up one of those orange and black caterpillars and began tossing it in the air and catching it. Once I missed...the

beast landed on my left eye and left some of its tiny hairs in my eye. The pain was intense and rubbing my eye made it worse. I was playing near the "Castle", a name we kids gave to the large concrete formation that housed the hoist and machinery to the #14 mine near my home. I knew I needed help and didn't dawdle, but trotted over to Dr Botts office. The Dr. was there because his black shiny Ford was in the garage. I entered the waiting room and knocked on the office door which he immediately opened and I told him what happened. I entered the office as he pulled a chair over for me and he sat at his desk. Dr Botts had difficulty getting me to open my eye so he could look. I leaned my head back and drops of some kind were administered to the eye. After some maneuvering the hairs were removed and I was nearly good as new. I never told my folks of the incident and don't believe he was ever paid. I just said thank you and left.

About a year later a playmate and I got into a rock fight. It wasn't unusual for kids to throw rocks. I had a strategic position in a wood shed for cover. The shed had an open shuttered window ideal to launch my ammunition. As I lifted my head up to have a look at my target, a rock was already on its way to me and met with my forehead. I tumbled back and saw stars for the first time. Warm liquid dripped from my face and I lifted my hand to wipe it off. I emerged from the shed as several other kids looked on in horror, turned and ran away. A head wound bleeds like crazy anyway. I got the bejeezus scared out of me and began to sob. A neighbor came out with a wet cloth



*and wiped my face and placed it over the wound. He walked me over to Dr Botts where the Dr. cleaned the cut and applied two stitches. I was nearly as good as new, but had to endure a stern talk from the neighbor about the dangers of throwing rocks. I had to tell my parents of my monkeyshines and my dad paid the bill. I think I changed to throwing ferns as spears. A little scar remains to this day.*

*In writing these memories, I can't help but remember other times waiting in the Dr's office sitting in the squeaky chairs and sniffing an aroma like no other. I would liken the smell to sniffing a fresh bottle of vitamins and the aroma was stronger in the inner office. It must have been from the many bottles of medicine stored high along the walls. The good Dr. came to our house when I had the flue and chickenpox and always spoke with a soft voice. Later on Dr. Botts would pick me up from time-to-time as I hitchhiked while in early years in highschool and always asked of my health and how I was doing. Good as new I would reply.*

*Louis Draghi"*

## MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURE

Membership is in good standing for 1 year from joined/renewal date.

(Membership renewal date does not change unless member is dropped and later becomes a member again. In that case the new joining date is the renewal date.)

The newsletter is the instrument used to remind members when their dues are due. The membership renewal date is printed on the label.

When the newsletter is sent out, there will be a red check on your label if it is past the due date showing.

If the member has not renewed membership by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month previous to the next newsletter, a pink reminder card will be mailed out.

If member pays for his/her membership before the next newsletter comes out, he/she will get that newsletter and membership will continue; if not, no newsletter and membership is dropped.

By Membership Chair, Dee Israel

### **RICHARD ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NW RAILWAY MUSEUM, IN SNOQUALMIE, WA. WAS GUEST SPEAKER AT APRIL 27, 2008 MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

All present enjoyed an excellent presentation made by Mr. Anderson. He showed pictures and explained that their Museum had been Puget Sound Railroad Historical Association since 1957 but had been changed in 1999 to Northwest Railway Museum. It is housed in the old 1890 Snoqualmie train depot and targets families with young children. They have a School Train Program, with half of the participants being home schoolers. Very popular amongst the children is Thomas The Tank Engine, known to nearly every preschool child.

They are now in the process of restoring a coal car for the Renton Museum. Their volunteers that help with restorations and replications are from many areas, including Monroe Prison.

Historic reconstruction has just been completed on a caboose. A train shed will be built to house the caboose plus future large artifacts. One of the largest artifacts belonging to Northwest Railway Museum, and required major rehabilitation, is the 1891 bridge over the Snoqualmie River.

The 6 1/2 acre Railway History Center is now being planned. Phase one will be the 8,000 sq. ft. Collection Care Facility. There will also be a library, and archive storage which will have humidity control. This will be especially good for paper products.

Mr. Anderson concluded by telling us about their next project, which will be the restoration of an 1898 wooden Chapel Car. (They were used to travel the railways to spread the gospel with living quarters for the pastor & his wife.) The Chapel Car that they have acquired is called "Messenger of Peace". Its last assignment in WA was in 1946.



## 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	\$ _____	

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Cash

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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 LETTERMEN'S SWEATERS By JoAnne Matsumura

Our recent rearrangement of the Lettermen's Sweater Exhibit has been enhanced with two new sweaters. They are from Phil Fowler 1937-1938, and Walter Clark 1942.

These sweaters were earned in more ways than playing a game of sports, as Walter "picked peas and berries in the summer of 1941 for the \$17.00 price of the sweater." Phil earned stripes and letter for basketball and baseball. He was team captain as the shoulder star patch indicates on the left side. Thank you Phil and Walter for your generosity.

The other sweaters on exhibit are Tullio Fontana 1933-1935, Frank Manowski 1930-1932, Ivor Merryfield 1938-1940, Gordon Roberts 1938-1939, and Frank Stebly 1937-1939. The sweaters were made by the Octonek Sweater Company, Seattle, WA.

Special thanks to Clayton Mead, Harry Berry, Jane Jones, and Joan Malgarini for their work on this exhibit.



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

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**MONTHLY BOARD  
MEETINGS**

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

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

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

**E-MAIL US**

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

**FOLLOW LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES**

**Did you know that Black Diamond was  
named after a coal mining company that  
came from Nortonville, California.  
Information on that mining area is available  
on the web at [ebparks.org](http://ebparks.org)**