



# *Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum*

Printed Quarterly



January 2008

## PICTURES OF THE PAST



From the Archives of the Black Diamond Historical Society

## MAJESTIC MOUNT RAINIER

This image of Mt. Rainier graces the front cover of the Black Diamond Labor Day Program's Silver Anniversary issue 1950-1975. The photograph was taken at about where CJ's Bakery is now by Frank & Irene Shay.

The "A Gift Shop", and the "Entering Black Diamond" sign are no longer there. We notice the small sign stating "Peddlers and Solicitors Permits Required".



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

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

To send material for the Newsletter, contact:  
**Steve Israel, Editor BDHS**  
P.O. Box 232, Black Diamond, WA 98010  
360-886-2582 homecareconst@comcast.net

For address changes or corrections, contact:  
**Dee Israel, Membership BDHS**  
P.O. Box 232, Black Diamond, WA. 98010  
360-886-2582 stevedee@comcast.net

**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.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

It's been a privilege to serve the Black Diamond Historical Society as Vice President for this past year. We will never get over the fact that so many volunteers spend so much of their time keeping the Historical Society going.



The people we've worked with are outstanding and I thank them for their hard work and dedication. I do want to thank President Don Malgarini for his leadership and friendship to me. He has done an excellent job of leading us and helping expand the Society's impact in the community for the last two years. Steve Israel has stepped down as a Board Member but will continue to work as Newsletter Editor as well as updating our web site. He still finds time to help us with the Museum construction projects. Thank you Steve! We gained a new member and old friend to the Board; Gino Picini, whose family were old time residents of Black Diamond. Welcome aboard Gino! We also welcome back Don Mason ("the mayor of Franklin") who will continue to add his talents to the Board as well as leading tours to the old town site of Franklin and tours of the Museum. A great job Don!

The Board Members work tirelessly at the Museum and at their homes to the betterment of the Society. We all take our hats off to JoAnne Matsumura (Museum Archivist) who seems to have boundless energy for the many jobs she does. Thank you so much for a wonderful job JoAnne. Our Secretary, Dee Israel keeps us up to the minute as well as keeping up with the Membership Chair duties. Super job Dee! Clayton Mead does a stellar job as Treasurer and all around handyman. Thanks Clayton for all that you do! Doc Botts keeps the building agenda on schedule while he works with the visitors and greeters. Thanks for a great job Doc. Coke Roberts is the spark plug for our outreach education program. He dresses-up like an old coal miner and gives wonderful lectures to our visitors. Coke has the ability to create good ideas and formulate plans to accomplish them. It is fun to work with Coke - he does

such a first rate job! The other Director/ Trustees on the Board of Directors do all kinds of work both at the Museum and at their homes. My thanks to Howard Botts, Anna Morris, and Jackie Cedarholm. A special thanks goes to the Docents (Greeters), the Thursday Work Crews and the many people who provide lunch for the work crews. The Society started in 1976, and we thank all of the many volunteers that have worked since that time to achieve the level of which the Museum is today.

The building and grounds of the Museum require many hours of volunteer work and we are always welcoming people to do many of the chores that are available. If any of you would like to spend a few hours with us, just let us know. We do have fun! The job openings are ample: greeters, dusters, weeders, carpenters, painters, artists, sign makers, window glass cleaners, landscape helpers, and many more.

As the new President, I will be working with all of the volunteers as we review the Society's goals for the future. A couple of the feasibility studies we are working on are: an outside working display for the Siren that used to be on top of the Confectionery building across the street from the Museum, and the possibility of displaying a Train Locomotive on the tracks in front of our caboose display. If anybody has any input for these projects, please contact us.

We are presently doing outreach programs to Schools and Organizations who would like a presentation about the history of Black Diamond in their classroom or at their meeting place. We also have been conducting group tours of the Museum by special appointment. A lot of organizations love to eat at the local eateries and then be guided thru the Museum by one of our volunteers. We are looking for the year 2008 to be one of growth and new opportunities and look forward to working with as many of you as possible. Again thank you for your support!

Sincerely,  
Keith Watson  
360-886-0778  
[kcwdoc@comcast.net](mailto:kcwdoc@comcast.net)

## EDITOR'S REPORT

Steve Israel



Dear Members of the Black Diamond Historical Society. We enjoy hearing from you, and welcome your feedback on how we are doing.

What do you like seeing in the newsletter? What do you think we do not need in the newsletter?

Do you like the programs and events that we provide for our members and the community? Would you want more? What events would you like for us to have that we currently do not have?

How do you like our displays in the Museum and on the grounds. Should we change anything? Should we never change anything?

Please take a moment to drop us an email (or snail mail) and let us know your thoughts. We all have our ideas of how things should be, and all of us should let our ideas be heard. Give our current Board of Directors something to work with.

Frank Hammock has done a superb job of writing another article for us. Some of you may have known Archie Eltz. If you didn't, you will after reading the article about Archie in this issue.

As for me, I have been spending countless hours learning new software to develop a new web site for us. I find it very interesting and very challenging. I think I will be able to speak fluent Greek when I am done, because so far,..... it's all Greek to me!

Thank you.

*Steve*

## BDHS 2008 CALENDAR

**JAN 2 WED** 2 PM Presentation by Coke Roberts to White River Historical Society  
**JAN 17 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting  
**FEB 21 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting  
**MAR 15 SAT** 2 PM Presentation by Coke Roberts at the Klondike Museum in Seattle  
**MAR 20 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting  
**APR 17 THU** 1 PM BDHS Board Meeting  
**APR 19 SAT** 1 PM Celebrate National Arbor Day event at Museum  
**APR 27 SUN** 1:30 PM Gen. Mem. Meeting  
**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 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'S REPORT

By Dee Israel

Election of Officers and Directors for 2007-2008 was held at the Annual General Membership Meeting on October 28, 2008.

Afterwards, Election Chair Dorothy Botts announced the Board as: President Keith Watson, Vice President Don Malgarini,

Secretary Dee Israel, Treasurer Clayton Mead. The Directors are Donald (Doc) Botts, Howard Botts, Jackie Cedarholm, Don Mason, JoAnne Matsumura, Anna Morris, Gino Picini and Conrad (Coke) Roberts.

President Keith Watson has asked each Board member to help put together a list of goals that they would like to see take place. From these he selected approximately 35 from the top of the list that he and the board are working on getting accomplished.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS (standing):

**ARCHIVES:** Chair JoAnne Matsumura is in the process of changing, what is called Charlie's Room, into an Archives office.

**EDUCATION/OUTREACH:** Chair Coke Roberts has purchased burgundy vests for the board members and docents to wear while at the museum to allow guests to know who to ask questions of.

The Board is looking into ways to get youth more involved at the museum.

**FACILITIES & GROUNDS:** Chair, Don Malgarini - We have had some vandalism this quarter:

1. Someone drove on to the platform and tried to pull the coal car away. Since the coal car is chained in place, they were unable to take it, but they did break some ends of the platform boards. We are now leaving the exterior lights on to help with security. We plan on upgrading those lights in the near future.

2. Someone cut the rope on the school bell. The rope has now been replaced.

3. The Museum's Flag was stolen, however the suspect has been apprehended and our flag is now in the evidence room at the police station.



We have a new camera monitoring security system with four cameras. Plans are for four additional cameras to be added in the near future.

Light bulbs have been changed over to the more energy saving spiral bulbs. Archivist JoAnne Matsumura is looking into getting ultra-violet covers for these bulbs to help preserve the artifacts.

We have acquired the town siren. During its use in the olden days it had been mounted on the Confectionery building. We plan on getting it mounted on one of our buildings and using it on special occasions.

We are doing a feasibility study as to whether we can accommodate having a 1943, 22 ton, diesel, yard engine on display at the museum.

**GRANTS Chair, JoAnne Matsumura – #105365H – HERITAGE FACILITIES (upgrade of security system) -** The \$2500 for this grant from **4culture** has been received and the Grant is now closed.

**#107313H - HERITAGE SUSTAINED SUPPORT, 2007. -** The \$3600 for this grant from **4culture** has been received and the Grant is now closed.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Chair Dee Israel advised we now have a membership of 285 and announced plans for a Membership Drive to begin in January.

**PROGRAMS:** Chair Howard Botts – Those that attended the Annual Membership meeting enjoyed an Octoberfest Barbeque with plenty of good food & visiting after the meeting.

On December 8<sup>th</sup> the Museum's Christmas party was a fun time for those that attended. Besides the wonderful food, gift exchange and visiting; songbooks were handed out for singing, which was accompanied by Gino Picini on his accordion and Steve Israel on his harmonica.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Chair Keith Watson advised the Board: Palmer Coking Coal is celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. PCC Manager Bill Kombol had calendars made for 2008 with coal mining pictures. He had enough made for all of Black Diamond Historical Society Members as well as his own list. These have now been sent out and we hope you are all as pleased with them as the we are.

(Continued on next page)



## 🔊 SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

By Doc Botts, Volunteer Coordinator

As we begin a new year we wish to express our heartfelt thanks to our family of 38 volunteers and their faithful assistants who give unselfishly of their time and energies in their stewardship for the Society. Without *them* we couldn't do what we do.

There will always be a need for more volunteers as we grow discovering new territories of untold histories of Black Diamond to be preserved, finding new ways to better preserve the thousands of artifacts that represent the community When Coal was King, and telling inspiring stories of Black Diamond and How it Came To Be.

We look forward to seeing more of you, and if you could we could use your helping hands to make our load a little lighter, and enjoy your friendship along the way. There are tasks designed for everyone, it just takes good matchmaking.

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

(Continued from previous page)

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

**TOURS:** Chair Don Mason – Thanks to Don and also to Coke Roberts we have been successful in having group tours at the Museum and at the Franklin townsite.

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:** Chair Doc Botts - For Christmas we will closed from December 24<sup>th</sup> thru January 2<sup>nd</sup>, reopening on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January. It was announced that Museum visitors are up 20% since last year.

## GUESTS

By: Doc Botts

In **2007** during the months of **September, October, November & December** we had **1011** visitors to the Museum. There were visitors from **13** States: Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and here in Washington. There were also people visiting from other places, such as Germany, Ireland, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom, & Wales.

## REMARKS BY OUR GUESTS

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

**An amazing collection of things, Great Museum & such friendly people, Very informative, We just love it here, Great town, Very well done, Magnificent use of space to include so much, Biggest small museum in the world, Neat place to visit, Glad you're here, Great history of a community, Thank you for preserving these mementos, Lots of fun for the family, Great seeing so many things I remember, Bless you for preserving our history, Excellent displays & museum, Fantastic work – well done to all involved, Very nice place – this tells me a lot about our past, Missed the train – but I'll be back, Thank you volunteers, I couldn't believe how many pieces are here – It was amazing, Keep up the good work – enjoyed going down memory lane, So interesting and beautifully displayed, The best place ever, Best museum I've seen, You've done a great job, Deeply appreciated, Great collection.**

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A man is flying in a hot air balloon and realizes he is lost. He reduces his height and spots a man down below. He shouts to the man: "Excuse me, can you tell me where I am?" The man below replies, "Yes, you're in a hot air balloon, hovering thirty feet above this field!" "You must work in information technology," says the balloonist. "I do," replies the man. "How did you know?" Well," says the balloonist, "everything you have told me is technically correct, but it's of no practical use to anyone!" The man shouts back, "You must be a corporate manager!" "I am, how did you know?" "Well," says the man on the ground, "You don't know where you are or where you're going, but you expect me to be able to help. You have the same problem you had before we met, but now it's my fault!"

## **LOOKING BACK: THIRTY YEARS AGO**

Society Newsletter, January 1978, and Around town  
By JoAnne Matsumura

### **From the Archives:**

Gone but not forgotten are:  
Fred Elder, Sr. (75), Harold Hubert (73), Katie Lushing (94), and Frances Zumek Schoning (62).

The Society produced a slide program as fulfillment of a King County Arts Commission grant that has been well received. Planking was purchased to replace the platform as near as possible to the original. The Society will host an Antique appraisal in the Depot in March. The 1000 1978 Calendars are nearly sold out. The coal car decal and large photo of the Black Diamond Bakery made their debut in the gift shop.

The Society's January meeting of over 120 in attendance was held in the conference room in the City Hall to enjoy the presentation of "The History of the Pacific Coast Railroad" by Mr. Edward Berntsen from the Burlington Northern Railroad. The room was filled to capacity and many memories were shared and "the program was enjoyed by all".

Two featured articles include the experiences of being a postmaster in Black Diamond by Mrs. Rose Small, and the continuing series of articles on Franklin, WA.

Featured photographs were of Dr. Botts Office and Railroad Avenue amid a winter's snow.

The Black Diamond Miners Soccer Team had a reunion in Black Diamond, and Seattle looks to operate a "300 Megawatt Power plant to be powered by coal."

The 1978 Labor Day Royal Court was Queen Debbie Drossart and Princesses Amy Guidetti and Carol Storey.



## **THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES** **Gone but not forgotten**

By JoAnne Matsumura




 John Costanich  
1916-2007


Former employee of  
Palmer Coking Coal Co.

 Delano Fardig  
1934-2007

Born in Ravensdale, WA  
Brother to Greta Saftich

 Kaye Jameyson  
1916-2007

Born in Black Diamond  
Wife of Myron Jameyson


 Anne Margaret Kochevar  
1911-2007

Born in Taylor, WA


 Bill Lewis 2007  
Black Diamond High School

 Ellen Malatesta  
1915-2007

Widow of Joe Malatesta

 Jack A. Morris  
1918-2007

Brother of Evan Morris

 Arthur William Pearce, Jr.  
1963-2007

Former employee of  
Palmer Coking Coal Co., 1970-1980s

 Mitsue Signani 2007  
Wife of Leonard Signani



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## **ARBOR DAY AT THE MUSEUM** Plant, Beautify, and Decorate Together

By JoAnne Matsumura

Come help us beautify our Museum grounds. Bring a small plant from your yard (Please no trees).  
School children are especially invited. Let's help the children plant. Come join us and tell Arbor Day stories.

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 19, 2008 Noon to 2 P.M.

**WHERE:** At the Museum, 32627 Railroad Ave, Black Diamond.

Light refreshments will be served.

Donations to maintain the Flower Garden are welcome and appreciated. **SEE YOU THERE!**

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

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

*Memorial Donations were made:*

*IN MEMORY* of **Warren Baumgartner**, by Don & Lynn Mason.

*IN MEMORY* of **John Costanich**, by Palmer Coking Coal Co. and George & MaryLou Costanich.

*IN MEMORY* of **Joe Darby**, by Donald Botts, Walter & Joan Clark and Pat Walsh.

*IN MEMORY* of **Emily Kravagna**, by Ramon Kravagna.

*IN MEMORY* of **Bill Lewis**, by Ramon Kravagna.

*IN MEMORY* of **Jack Morris**, by Palmer Coking Coal Co. and Pauline Kombol.

*IN MEMORY* of **Arthur William Pearce Jr.**, by Palmer Coking Coal Co.

*IN MEMORY* of **John Walsh**, by Harry Berry.

*IN MEMORY* of **Patricia Walsh**, by Harry Berry.

### ADDITIONAL MONETARY DONATIONS

*To the general fund:*

Bob & Jodine Burke  
 Don & Carmel Camerini  
 Dick & Lori Hoyt  
 Douglas & Alison Stern  
 David MacDuff

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.

A man wrote a letter to the IRS: "I have been unable to sleep knowing I have cheated on my income tax. I understated my taxable income and have enclosed a check for \$150.00. If I still can't sleep, I will send you the rest."

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

To Society Members

By Dee Israel

- Jan. 01 Ed Opstad
- Jan. 01 Peter Logar
- Jan. 05 Donna Savick Casper
- Jan. 05 Rosa Draghi
- Jan. 08 Ruby DiJulio Lamantea
- Jan. 09 Audrey Kramer Mendenhall
- Jan. 09 Ethel Estby Johnson
- Jan. 10 Frank Grgurich
- Jan. 11 Philip Fowler
- Jan. 13 Leo Merlini
- Jan. 16 Joan Benton Barber
- Jan. 16 Marlene Lingle Bortleson
- Jan. 18 Tori Ammons
- Jan. 18 Jodine DalSanto Burke
- Jan. 19 Gil Bortleson
- Jan. 19 Eileen Kelly Zumek
- Jan. 20 Esther Hall Mumford
- Jan. 23 Terry Picini
- Jan. 26 Thelma Fisher
- Jan. 29 Edie Smail
- Jan. 30 Josephine Remsche Long
- Jan. 31 Michael Deicher
- Jan. 31 Connie Botts Florence
- Feb. 03 Ellen G. Olsen Vieg
- Feb. 03 R. Marie Trover Theilken
- Feb. 06 Betty Hiber Martin
- Feb. 08 Walter Clark
- Feb. 08 Judy Helland Hager Watson
- Feb. 09 MarcieLee Berg
- Feb. 09 Elsie Parkin
- Feb. 12 Julie (Judy) Laine Young
- Feb. 17 Dorothy Brown Botts
- Feb. 18 Janet Lombardini
- Feb. 23 Mrs. Flavia Picini Meyer
- Mar. 05 Pearl Bowen
- Mar. 02 Loretta Stella Vincenzi
- Mar. 04 Dahni Malgarini Logar
- Mar. 05 Pearl Platt Bowen
- Mar. 05 Beth Deady
- Mar. 06 David Florence
- Mar. 08 Gerald Kuzaro

(Continued on next page)



**IN MEMORIAM**

✧ **Gone but not forgotten** ✧

By JoAnne Matsumura

✧ **Joseph C. Darby** was born June 29, 1923 in Roslyn, WA and died October 30, 2007 in Renton, WA. In 1929 Joe with his parents moved to Black Diamond.

Joe and his wife Mary have been members of the Society since 2002, and visited when they

could. They made Bellevue, WA their home for 45 years before moving to Renton.

Joe is a 1941 graduate of Black Diamond High School and was a ball player with the Black Diamond Wildcats.

Joe served his country in the US Air

Force and only a few years ago was awarded and received his Purple Heart. His granddaughter's astute observation while she and Joe were looking at his album, she asked to see his Purple Heart Medal. Joe had never received the medal, so he



and Mary contacted Congresswoman Dunn's Office who confirmed that Joe was deserving of the country's most recognized wartime medal.

Joe was a meat cutter from 1948-1993 when he retired from Don (Kuzaro) & Joe's Meats at the Pike Place Market in Seattle, WA, now owned by his nephew, Don Kuzaro, Jr.

Joe is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary, daughters, Diane Albright, Christine Henderson, and Kathi Sliger, Sister, Barbara Kuzaro. His son, Alan, preceded him in death.

✧ **Leo Merlini** was born January 13, 1926 and died suddenly in November 2007.

Leo was a Charter Member of the Society having joined in 1976. He is also listed on the Black Diamond High School Roster.

Leo worked for the Diamond Stage Company before serving his country in the Army Air Force. Later he served on the Black Diamond Police Force for about 5 years.

✧ **Walter Henry Riverside** was born on August 9, 1914 in Franklin, WA, to Henry and Alma Riverside. He passed away on September 27, 2007 in Ocean Shores, WA.

Walter was schooled in Franklin and Black Diamond and is a graduate of the Black Diamond High School Class of 1933. Walter has been a lifetime member of the Society since 1977.

Walt, as he was known, was a logger and owned his first logging company at the age of 16.



His wife Cornelia Neally McDaniel, Sisters, Sylvia, Lydia, Selma and Elvera, and his daughter Kay Riverside Sheetz preceded him in death. His granddaughter Lyliane Sheetz Couture and great-grandson, David John Couture, survive Walt.

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

- (Continued from previous page)
- Mar. 09 Janice Roberts Colbo
  - Mar. 11 Douglas Danley
  - Mar. 12 Henry DeLauro
  - Mar. 12 Alma Mattson Malatesta
  - Mar. 14 Cheryl Brean Dubbs
  - Mar. 14 Janice Greggs
  - Mar. 16 Michael Manieri
  - Mar. 22 Virginia Mann Lindstrom
  - Mar. 23 Catherine Evans Truman
  - Mar. 28 Diane DalSanto Kitz
  - Mar. 28 John Trover
  - Mar. 31 Chad M. Abramson Sr.
  - Mar. 31 Pauline Morris Kombol
  - Mar. 31 Jeanne Zlelsdorf

## Archie Eltz - Reminisces about the Past

By Frank Hammock (2007)

Stories have a way of shaping, through knowledge and experience, the journeys of our past from the people who share them. We all have stories to tell, in one form or another, and from these stories we gain a better understanding of who we are, and where we are going. Thus, the process we call life, a time of transition and change, is slowly revealed in all its intricacies and detail. This story is no exception.



**Jones Lake Cinder Removal Project, June 1990**  
(Courtesy of Bill Kombol, Palmer Coking Coal Co)

Let's step back in time and see a little of Black Diamond's history through the eyes of a man who was willing to share his knowledge and the memories of his life, from the era in which he lived.

Mr. Arthur "Archie" Walter Eltz was born on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1915, at 8 AM in Butlerville, Salt Lake County, Utah. His parents, Frank Eltz and Annie Zadnick, both hailed from Germany. Frank was a coal miner who died on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1923, when at the 12<sup>th</sup> level, north gangway, of Black Diamond's Mine 11, "a large piece of rock fell from the roof, killing him instantly."<sup>1</sup> He was 37 years old.

Here is how Archie described his humble beginnings:

*"We came to Black Diamond in 1921. My dad worked hard rock around Spokane and Butte, Montana, and worked the coal mines in Utah. I was six years old. We got off the train in Ravensdale. We had all our trunks. Thompson brought us over with a team of horses. We lived over across from Mine 11.*

*There was a house up there that burned down after 1924. ..."*<sup>2</sup>

Throughout the years, Archie's memory remained clear, concise, and sharp. He could remember the past as clearly as anyone could with the present, and without any hesitation. His details were often quite impressive. He was a man of confidence and an assured manner, and took a great deal of pride in his life and what he had become. He had a bright, contagious smile and was always gentle to others. He truly loved to tell people the stories and events of the past. His passions were in mining, and the town of Black Diamond. His personal belief in the work of mining and the philosophy of his era was summed up when he stated that:

*"...A good miner is conscientious, did his work and did good work. Not just sit back there and wait through the day. ..."*<sup>3</sup>

Archie attended the Black Diamond High School from 1931 to 1934. After graduating, he started out packing timber in 1935 for about \$4.70 a day. Throughout most of his life he was a miner, but he also worked in the woods supplying mine props to the mines. His occupational talents read like a grocery list and included such titles as — mechanic, loader operator, rope rider, cager, surveyor, mucker (shoveling), heavy equipment/machinery operator, and more. He could fix most anything — a jack-of-all-trades — so to speak, and his knowledge of mining and logging were extensive. He especially enjoyed improving upon things — to do projects that would always result in making the process better than it was before. Some of the many companies he worked for in Washington State and the Seattle/Black Diamond area were as follows:<sup>4</sup>

- \*Pacific Coast Coal Company (HQ in Smith Tower, Seattle): 1946, 1947 (where he earned about \$3,000 annually)
- \*General Construction Company (Seattle): 1947
- \*Spokane Typesetting Company (Spokane): 1947
- \*Kaiser Cement Corp. (home based out of Walnut Creek, CA): 1947 – 1949 (Note: these were the years that Mr. Archie Eltz went to Dall Island, Alaska mining limestone for a cement plant in Seattle)

\*Palmer Coking Coal Company, Inc. (Black Diamond):  
1949 - 1972

Other positions were held with the following companies, perhaps as side jobs during the era with Palmer Coking Coal Company, Inc.:

\*TA Draghi Coal Co. (Black Diamond): 1953 – 1955  
(Note: Part time work in a little coal mine that Louis Draghi had in section 14 near Dago town in Black Diamond.)

\*King County Water District No. 66 (Black Diamond):  
1956, 1957, & 1959 (Note: this was the water district that supplied Black Diamond before the city incorporated in 1959.)



**Landsburg Mine, 1951. L to R: George E. Morris, 'Bychan' George Morris, Archie Eltz.**

(Bychan is pronounced buck'-in and means little or short in Welsh) (PHoto by Evan D. Morris, courtesy of Bill Kombol)

His last occupation before retiring was for the City of Black Diamond from 1966 to 1982, as the City Utility Chief, where he earned a little over \$18,000 annually.

Stories about Archie abounded and one in particular was told not long ago about the ingenuity and quick-witted thinking that Archie expressed often in his day-to-day dealings with people and situations – actually a common trait from his era.

Sometime in the late 1960s, the late Jack Morris, President of Palmer Coking Coal Co., Inc., needed a trusted employee to travel back to Pittsburgh to pick up parts for an underground coal mine loading machine called a "Joy" loader. It was called a Joy loader because it was manufactured by the Joy Machinery Company,

who specialized in underground coal mining equipment. Archie was a "can do" kind of guy who knew the Joy loader inside and out and could be trusted to get the right parts. Archie flew back to the East Coast and went to the dealer to get the parts. He purchased the parts and prepared to fly back to Seattle. However, the parts, possibly two identical parts, were very heavy pieces of metal that were longer than might fit in a suitcase or bag, so they couldn't very well be checked. Archie, the ever enterprising fellow that he was, rigged up some rope and tied each part to the end of the rope. Then, he used the rope as a harness of sorts that went over the back of his neck so the parts were essentially hanging from the front on each side of his body and covered by his overcoat. He boarded the plane that way (this was in a much more innocent period of time without the passenger screening requirements of today) and carried the parts back to Seattle, got them to the mine, so the Joy loader could be fixed.<sup>5</sup>

Archie was no stranger to his share of accidents while on the job. The following information, provided from actual accident reports, would certainly attest to the many dangers that workers like Archie faced every day while employed in and around coal mines.<sup>6</sup>

#### Landsburg Mine:

Date Jun. 11, 1956 (1 PM): in the rock tunnel gangway – he was walking in the gangway and a runaway trip jumped the track. He was struck with several objects and bruised.

Date Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1952 (8 hour shift that began at 8 AM): while in a chute, pitch; it writes: he was going down ladder and he slipped, dropping to the next rung of ladder, landing on his left foot, breaking the ankle, resulting in a fracture (left ankle). Occupation: maintenance.

#### Franklin #12 Mine:

Date Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1955 (9 AM): Hit first knuckle on left hand with hammer causing bruise and skin break and infection.

#### Rogers #2 Mine:

Date Sep. 28, 1961 (8 hour shift that began at 3 PM): he was underground; Mr. Eltz writes: "I was assembling gear cases on motor when the bottom half slipped and hit me on shin bone above ankle (left)." Another note reads: "Gear case, DC power."

Occupation: Maintenance. He had been employed for 13 years at the time; total experience at this occupation – 20 years; total experience in coal mines – 26 years. He was 46 years of age at the time. Wages per week: \$130.00.



**Mine #11, Aug 1949, rock dump work. L to R: Harold Lloyd, Archie Eltz, Frank Merritt, Carl Falk.**  
(Photo courtesy of Bill Kombol)

In 1985, a lengthy interview was conducted with Archie on various occasions by Mr. Bill Kombol, Manager of the Palmer Coking Coal Company, Inc. In the interview, Archie revealed detailed information in short sketches from the era in which his passion flourished. He spoke of many situations and events such as the strike of 1921, Mine 11, Franklin, the Banchemo's, # 10 and #12 mines, Ginder Lake, Indian Mine, and much more. Here below, are just a few of those "sketches in time" as Archie reminisces about the past, and the history that shaped our community today.

Archie talked a little about the Franklin mines...

*Bill Kombol (BK): It was really unusual for gravel to be contacting the coal isn't it?*

*Archie Eltz (AE): Well, if you read that Bulletin No. 3 it mentions that uh, Green River alone near the Franklin area, the gravel and hard pan was down 200 feet below the river. 'Cause it was mentioned about the water, how the water in that area above Deep Lake, in the immediate area, the creek would be flowing full blast and then all of a sudden disappear and then comes out at the river. (long pause) No, if we would have went down another 225*

*feet at Franklin, below the fifth level, we would have been in all virgin coal. We would have been 90 feet vertically below the shaft, and that's 1308 feet deep, and they were figuring ahead to use that shaft as an air course. And, there was only a 66-foot fault between the Franklin series and the Lawson series, so it would have been nothing to drag through and take out all the coal out Black Diamond here.*

*BK: What year was that?*

*AE: Between 1940 and '46, when the mine opened and when they shut 'er down.*

*BK: Was there much production between 1940 and 1946 at the Franklin mine?*

*AE: No, (coughs) they went between two mines, the Franklin mine and the No. 7 mine, and when they [Pacific Coast Coal Company], let Strain Coal Company mine it, when they hit the coal – Pacific Coast, we worked for them when they drove the slope down and the rock tunnel hit the McKay and we were on Strain's payroll. They were there two years and then they quit. Pacific Coast had commitments so they took it back and resumed mining.*

In this next sketch, Archie talked a little about the electricity in the Black Diamond area...

*BK: Where were they getting power for this line?*

*AE: From the main line coming from Black Diamond. But, Pacific Coast had their own transformers. Every place they worked they had their own transformers. These out here belonged to you guys, they don't belong to the power company, unless you gave it to them.*

*BK: No.*

*AE: And then at Franklin they had 3, that use to be 13 thousand 500 [13,500 volt], now it's 12-5 [12,500 volt] and I don't know what happened to them 3 transformers. They had a double pole there with a stand way up in the air and ....*

*BK: they had a pole line from the Green River Gorge Road right up to the mine. But, when did that power line come through from Cumberland to Black Diamond?*

*AE: Oh, I don't recall – it had to be before my time because Pacific Coast made their own power at Franklin for years and then they finally, when Puget Sound [Energy] came in, they bought*

*power off of them and put lights in Black Diamond and then they took, and leased or sold to the people for 50 cents for each light. You weren't supposed to have over 5 lights in the house.*

*BK: 50 cents for each light per month?*

*AE: Yeah.*

*BK: Was that expensive?*

*AE: 2 and a half dollars [for electricity]; a dollar a month for rent – I take that back, a dollar a month for water and 10 dollars a month for rent. Now it would be different when the people owned their own houses they paid a dollar a month just to squat on there but when that strike happened and Pacific Coast bought the houses back off the people. “You don't want to go to work?” Then, “You got no where to work.” So, they had to build Morganville overnight, practically, but the people owned their own houses. And, there was no where for them to move, so they sold them back.*

In this sketch, Archie talked about the strike of 1921...

*BK: Was this strike a local deal or a national deal?*

*AE: More or less local, Roslyn was the next biggest coal mine. But, they settled with – you know the railroad [Northern Pacific Railroad] was using most of that coal. And of course Northern Pacific had coal mines in Montana too, so every so often, they were in pretty good shape. What was asked of these people was to take a reduction in pay. It wasn't much. But they wouldn't do it. But, I think the majority would have, but they had some of these spicy talking Welshmen you know, or Scotsmen, or whatever they were. Cause once you get into it and they didn't want to back out. They should have took him out, old ??? [Presumably, the name of the spicy talking Welshman who was a labor leader] and hung him, is what they should have done. So, finally they broke the union.*

Archie talked a little about his dad, and his childhood...

*BK: What did your dad do during the strike?*

*AE: We had 2000 chickens. Raising them chickens and some of his store, and then on top of it he took to raising pheasants for the County. So we had 250 pheasants on hand when he got killed. After they were*

*a month old they'd give ya a dollar a piece for them. They'd bring ya the eggs, they had 4 inch shells, and that use to be my job of turning the eggs.*

*BK: Okay, that's why you like those pheasants out here in the yard so well.*

*AE: (laughter) yeah, I broke one egg in all that time.*

*BK: Huh.*

*AE: Yeah, must have pinched the shell, carefully turned . . . every day. Turn them all. Yeah each one of us had something to do. Had two other brothers. Had a couple of pigs, 4 cows, and them damn chickens. Anyhow, when they wouldn't produce, there was 5 families down here I am telling that was stuck for chickens. Kill them and eat 'em. Yeah, when my dad couldn't get two of his big fingers in the crotch of their butt, off come their head. No use paying to feed them. Feed cost too much money.*

Archie continued to talk about life after his father died...

*BK: Then after your dad died....*

*AE: Well, we got rid of everything – got rid of the chickens, got rid of the pheasants – the county came and got the pheasants, we kept one cow. And, anyhow, the house burned down, you know in 1924.*

*BK: A year after your Dad died?*

*AE: It was a double-decker, we had a well. No electricity down there ya know. So, they uh, it was pretty hard to pack water up with a bucket. It would take old man Lombardini [John] and his son, Ray, they couldn't get it out. Once they got a good start, it was just like a box of dried cedar.*

*BK: Where'd you guys move to then?*

*AE: Down there where Sebastian lived, down in – oh, down there for the next 15 years.*

*BK: Did your mom get a pension? From the coal company? From the state?*

*AE: From the state, from Industrial Insurance.*

*BK: How about from the coal company?*

*AE: No, I'll tell ya what they [Pacific Coast Coal Company] did. They gave her rent free,*

*lights, water, and a ton of coal a month until we got big enough and then they started putting the brakes on and that's when I started digging a little coal by Franklin hill – just to burn at home. I never did sell any. My two brothers and I we'd dig up enough in a week to last a whole year. Hauled it all home in a Model T.*

In the interview, the stories went on as Archie freely shared his knowledge, as well as his energy, about the past – his past – and our past. A complete copy of the interview was recently sent to Archie's daughter as a gift by Mr. Bill Kombol. The following response came back from her in a Christmas card:

*“What a treasure you've given me. I was very close to my Dad and this means so much.”<sup>7</sup>*

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2000, Archie Eltz died a happy man at the age of 84. His second wife, Agnes Eltz, followed him five years later. They lived in Morganville, south of Roberts Drive. He is survived by his three children Archie Eltz Jr. of Enumclaw, Janet (Eltz) Chavanu of Bainbridge Island, and Gary Eltz of Covington, as well as the many friends and coworkers who were fortunate to have shared in the pleasure of his delightful company. In the wake of his memorable life, what remains now permanently etched into the fabric of Black Diamond's history is a rich and colorful legacy of hard work, time, and a myriad of stories that he gave to a community he deeply cherished. *While Archie's legacy will no doubt live on in the quiet hearts of those who still remember him, perhaps one day his name and memory can be awarded a place of honor in the civic consciousness alongside so many others who helped to shape our proud past, and whose future became our present, that will live on well into tomorrow.*

He will not be forgotten.

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References:

- [1] Pacific Coast Bulletin, July 5, 1923, *Black Diamond Doings*, pg. 4 (courtesy of the Black Diamond Historical Society & Museum).  
 [2] Olson, Diane & Cory (1988)(compiled & edited), *Black Diamond: Mining the Memories*, pg. 192.  
 [3] Olson, Diane & Cory (1988)(compiled & edited), *Black Diamond: Mining the Memories*, pg. 84.

[4] Courtesy of Mr. Bill Kombol, Manager of Palmer Coking Coal Company, Inc.

[5] Courtesy of the mother of Mr. Bill Kombol, Manager of Palmer Coking Coal Company, Inc.

[6] Courtesy of Mr. Bill Kombol, Manager of Palmer Coking Coal. Company, Inc.

[7] Used by permission from Janet (Eltz) Chavanu, December 2007.

Note: The interview transcript of Archie Eltz conducted by Bill Kombol was quite extensive and is not possible to publish it here in its entirety. If anyone would like to read the entire interview, please contact the Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum to obtain a copy, which can be sent to you in soft copy (email) or hard copy (by mail).

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## A WELSH CELEBRATION ST. DAVID'S DAY

By JoAnne Matsumura

The Seattle Welsh Women's Club and The Puget Sound Welsh Association will host the St. David's Day Celebration, Gwyl Dewi Sant, on Sunday, March 2, 2008 at the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 111 NE 80<sup>th</sup> St., Seattle, WA beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Celebrated Welsh Guest Soloist Ann Atkinson, and guest artists Dinas aFrain, Cor Cymraeg (Seattle Welsh Choir) with David Lepse organist and piano accompanist will be performing the afternoon's entertainment, followed by Te Bach, (Welsh Tea).

Please join them for an afternoon of Welsh singing, in Welsh and English; Welsh refreshments, special raffle, getting to know the language, and meeting others of Welsh ancestry. All are Welcome. You don't have to be Welsh to attend and enjoy this celebration.

Admission is free. For information please contact Gerri Parry, 206-524-0854.



## Membership and Renewal Form

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If this is a gift, who is it from?  
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### Annual Membership Fees

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Lifetime Individual	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
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***For our records, on all checks please note purpose of check. (Dues, Donation, Memorial, etc.)***

For Museum Use Only

Date

Initials

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## IN THE MUSEUM

### CARBIDE LAMPS

Before the use of battery powered lamps, the underground miners used carbide lamps, usually worn on their hard hats. Carbide is a grey powder that goes in one chamber of the lamp, and water in another. When the water is dripped onto the carbide (calcium carbide), it produces a hydrocarbon called acetylene. Yes, the same gas that is used in a welding torch. This is ignited to produce a small yellow flame at the center of a reflective dish, to provide light for the miners.





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## **Annual Membership Meeting**

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

**Join us for a Special Program on  
This Fourth Sunday in April**

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## **MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS**

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

**The Black Diamond Historical Society  
is a nonprofit organization. Our  
funding comes mainly from  
donations, dues, and some  
grants.**

**The restoration and  
maintenance of the Museum  
and its contents are done by  
volunteers.**

**To donate your time or money  
would be a great way for you to  
help preserve your history. Find  
out more by talking to one of  
our wonderful volunteers.**