



Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum

Printed Quarterly

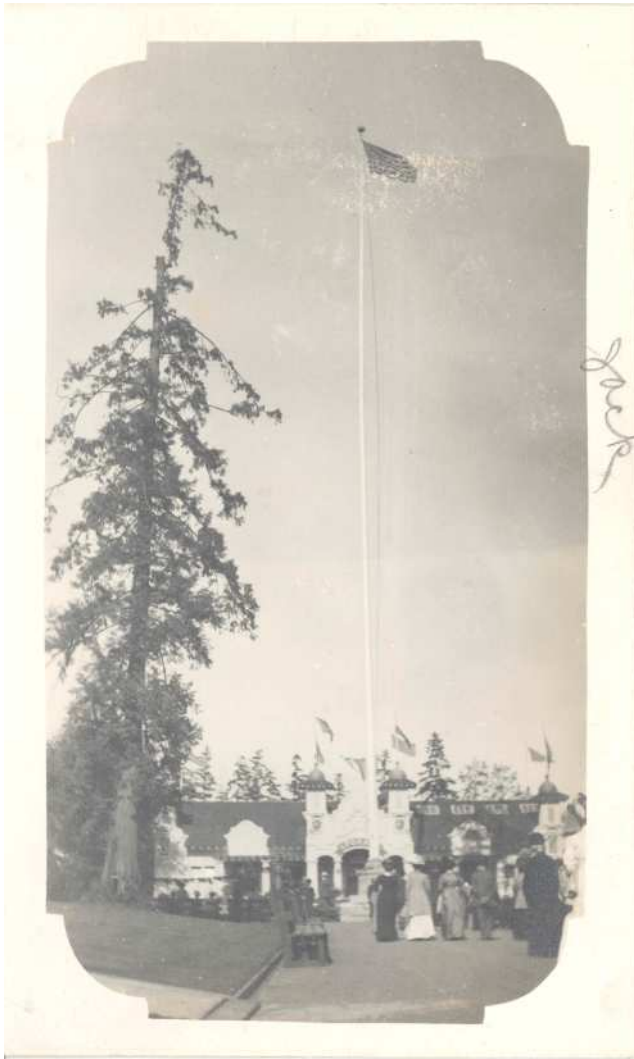


April 2009

PICTURES OF THE PAST

Photograph Courtesy Dan Kerlee

TIMBER FROM BUCKLEY GRACES THE 46 STAR US FLAG AT THE 1909 ALASKA-YUKON-PACIFIC EXPOSITION



Not far from Buckley, WA, a timber that will make the tallest one piece flagpole in the world was installed at the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. The Douglas fir timber is 200 feet in height and was provided by The Eagle Gorge Lumber Company, formerly the Buckley Logging Co., of 1890. It required five ordinary railroad flat cars to haul the big timber to the exposition grounds. A special railroad spur was built to accommodate the flat cars.

On opening day, promptly at noon the signal for the formal opening of the Exposition came from President Taft at Washington. "In Washington, DC, a 16 gun salute was fired shortly after noon. President Taft then punched a telegraph key set with Klondike-gold nuggets. Its electrical impulse triggered a gong at the fairgrounds (the UW). The "largest American flag ever made unfurled between two fir trees, spilling out confetti and 1,000 tiny American Flags." After the parade had passed amid cheers and great enthusiasm the crowd surged toward the huge amphitheatre where the ceremonies

were held. There, 16,000 people found accommodations. Whistles blew and bells rang, the Exposition band played the Star Spangled Banner and the doors of the Exposition buildings swung open.

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

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

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Newsletter articles due March 19th, 2009.

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Dee Israel, Membership BDHS
P.O. Box 232, Black Diamond, WA. 98010

Society Officers

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

Directors

Don "Doc" Botts, Howard Botts, Gomer Evans, Don Mason, JoAnne Matsumura, Anna Morris, Conrad "Coke" Roberts, and Bob Thompson

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Museum Hours

Thursday	9:00 - 4:00
Sat. & Sun. Summer	12:00 - 4:00
Sat. & Sun. Winter	12:00 - 3:00

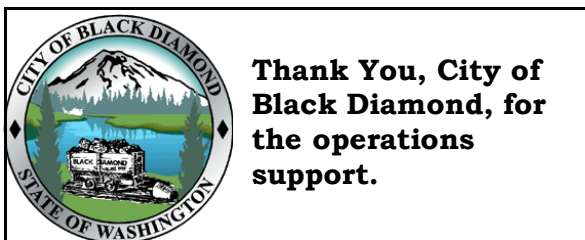
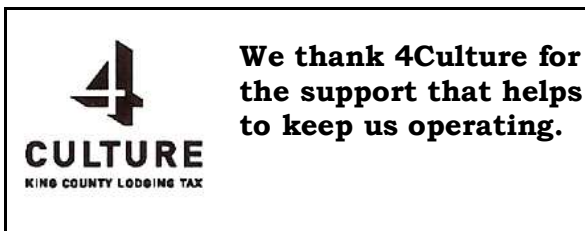
CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Information, Tours and Lectures: 360-886-2142
For Franklin Tours: 253-852-6763

E-mail Address: museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org
Web site: www.blackdiamondmuseum.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This Black Diamond Historical Society operates with an all volunteer staff. It takes many people with a lot of dedication to make this happen. Last year there were over 5400 volunteer hours donated by our volunteers to keep the Museum open and the Society operational. We are grateful to all who have served, and take our hats off to the dedication that it takes to be a volunteer.

The Museum is in the process of installing new exterior security light fixtures. Paul Hager volunteered to hang the fixtures which feature a dusk to dawn automatic operation. The fixtures are painted a depot green and direct the light downward so there is a minimum of glare. These lamp fixtures look similar to lamps used on train depots in the past yet allow us to conserve energy by turning on and off automatically. The fixtures also cast more light on the exterior of the building which will help with our security needs.

With the help of Steve Israel we have been able to install four new security cameras that record videos twenty four hours a day both inside and outside the Museum. This increases our camera coverage to a total of eight cameras. Also installed were monitor screens in various locations in the Museum to display the pictures that the cameras are recording. These installations, in conjunction with the fire and burglar alarm systems, have strengthened our security capabilities a great deal.

We are in the process of displaying the old siren that was used to notify the town of mining accidents and called the volunteer firemen to town fires. It was originally installed on top of the building across the street from the Museum, which is known as the "Confectionery Building", and now houses the Black Diamond Pizza



& Deli. Some of our members remember the siren and how it sounded. We will have a chance to hear it later in the year after it has been installed on the display. Evan Morris donated the siren and we thank his family for all of their support. Gomer Evans, Don Malgarini, and Harry Berry, along with others have been working on the siren project.

Don Mason, known as the "Mayor of Franklin", led the first tour of the year to the old town and mine site of Franklin. We had a total of seventy five people who walked the tour. The weather cooperated; complimenting Don's interpretive presentation. The group was shown the locations of the old railroad tracks, the buildings, and the 13 hundred foot deep vertical mine shaft that is open and partially filled with water. What fun it is to drop a rock down the shaft and wait for the splash at the water level. Don takes people on the tours in the winter and the late fall when leafs are off the trees so people can see the concrete abutments for the mines more clearly. On a clear day you can see Mount Rainier while listening to the rush of the Green River.

Its hard to imagine how this site was filled with buildings, a store, a lodge hall, a saloon, a church, a school, many company houses , miners and their families, but Don shows proof with photos that he uses during his presentation.

Another volunteer, Tom Noller, has been mowing our grass as well as repairing the glass in some of the windows. It's hard to figure how much money is saved because of the dedicated volunteers that accomplish these projects. The above are just some of the samples that volunteers do everyday either at the Museum or at their home office making the Society operate.



Thank you one and all!

Keith Watson



FROM YOUR EDITOR

Steve Israel

When asked what or who prompted her to become a member of the Black Diamond Historical Society/Museum,

Virginia Olson said, *"I visited in Sept. 2008 researching my fathers birth. He was born in Black Diamond. I thought the museum was great and wanted to support it as a member."*

Another member writes:

My father was a coal miner. We lived on Lawson Hill and later moved to the Lake 12 area. I believe our home had once been the mine office bldg.

Margaret Elizabeth Henry Brown

We love hearing from you. Please submit your thoughts and stories so our members can enjoy them.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 11 SAT. at the Museum ARBOR DAY PLANTING EVENT 1PM Local children are encouraged to bring flowering plants to plant on the Museum grounds. The children will be planting their own plants and placing markers beside them so they can check their growth with each visit to the Museum during the growing season. All are invited for this fun time.

April 26 SUN. at the Museum GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 1:30 PM The speaker will be William (Bill) Kombol who is the Manager of the Palmer Coking Coal Company and the author of the "WHEN COAL WAS KING" column which is featured in the Voice of the Valley paper. He will be showing us historical pictures along with his narration. Bill is also a member of the Black Diamond Historical Society and He and his Company has been very supportive of our Society. Refreshments will be served.

May 23 SAT. at the Museum MEMORIAL DAY PRESENTATION 1 PM a look back in time to see what Black Diamond citizens did on the "Home Front" during World War II. A look at Civil Defense Volunteers, Scrap Drives, Rationing, Air Raid Drills, Price Controls, Rationing, Black Outs, and Plane Spotters here in Black Diamond. We will also be remembering those who served in the military in during all time frames. Refreshments will be served.

June 3 WED. at the Black Diamond Community Center BLACK DIAMOND SCHOOL REUNION 10:30 AM call the Community Center 360-886-1011 to make a reservation. Past students from the Black Diamond Schools will get together for lunch and a special program featuring Joe Androsko speaking about his school days. He will be joined by other classmates who will share their experiences. Lunch will be served for \$8.00 per person. Let your classmates know about this annual event. Call the Black Diamond Community Center to make reservations. Phone: 360-886-1011

June 6 SAT. at the Museum WELSH DAY CELEBRATION 1:30 PM Welsh Day is back with a very special speaker and noted Local Historian Gary A. Zimmerman. There will also be live Celtic Music with a Welsh flavor provided by "DINAS A FRAIN" also know as "THE CITY OF CROWS". People of Welsh extraction were the original founders of Black Diamond and were helped by up to 30 other nationalities who worked and strived to make Black Diamond what is has become today. It should be a day not to be missed and of course refreshments will be served.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Gone but not forgotten

By JoAnne Matsumura



✿ Ione Erickson Herrin
1918-2008
Donor

✿ Samuel Kays
1977-2009
Son of Linda Tarter

✿ Colleen M. Switzer Petchnick
1942-2009
Wife of Allen Petchnick



SECRETARY REPORT

By Dee Israel

ARCHIVES: Chair JoAnne Matsumura announced that during calendar year 2008 there were 59 individuals who brought in artifact donations. All of the fluorescent bulbs in the museum have covers on them to keep the ultraviolet rays from deteriorating the artifacts. The old, yellowed ones have been removed and the installation of the new ones has begun. During the BDHS first fiscal quarter of 2008-2009, there has been 15 Research Requests.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH: Chair Coke Roberts advised that the BLACK DIAMOND SCHOOL RE-UNION will be June 3, 2009 (Wednesday) at 10:30 AM at the Black Diamond Community Center. They are trying to locate old photos to put on display. The Museum will be open before and after the program.

FACILITIES & GROUNDS: Chair, Don Malgarini –
CAMERAS & MONITORS - The BDHS Museum now has 8 cameras and 4 monitors for security throughout the building.

SIREN (which is about 3' x 20" and weighs 300#) - The old siren has been cleaned & painted and the housing is being built. It will have a cover installed on both ends with screening to keep birds from nesting in it. The electrical installation specifications and parts are presently being worked on. The new pole for the siren has been planted between the jail and the depot and a special brace has been made to attach it securely to the pole. A switch to turn the siren on & off will be on the back of the pole (with a lock). Harry Berry is the designer of this project and Gomer Evans is supervising it.

EXTERIOR LIGHTING - We are in the process of replacing the 3 light fixtures on front of the museum; the front door, porch light and the light overlooking the end of the building above the mine with mercury vapor lights with photocell controlled Dusk-to-Dawn features. This new lighting will enhance our museum security.

MEMBERSHIP: Chair Dee Israel - We now have a total of 308 members.

Ruby Favro Androsko Keeney, a long-time Black Diamond resident at the age of 102, has never been a member of the Black Diamond Historical Society. A motion was made & passed that she be given an Honorary Life Membership.

FRANKLIN TOUR: Chair Don Mason –Both Franklin tours were very successful. The Sat. Jan. 10th 2009



tour had 75 people attending and the March 7th tour had 31 attendees. If you haven't attended one of these tours, you are really missing out.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Chair Don Botts – Announced that the Museum would be open on Easter (April 12th) and Independence Day (July 4th).

The next scheduled Board Meeting will be held at **1:00 on (Thursday) April 9, 2009.**

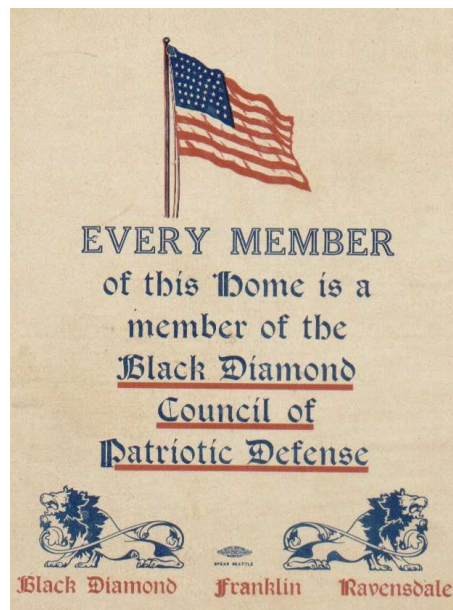
The next scheduled Society Membership Meeting will be held at **1:30 on (Sunday) April 26, 2009.**

MEMORIAL DAY

From the Society's Archives

"Memorial Day is not a holiday. Of all the days set aside for special observance in the United States, it alone is unique in not partaking of the joy, exultation or thankfulness of Christmas, Easter, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and other gala occasions. Holidays are celebrated. Memorial Day is observed. It is not, however, a day of mourning, for why should we mourn the passing of this mortal spirit into the Great Beyond? It is for the living today to pause for a moment in reverence for those whose immortal deeds light the way for our stumbling feet. By the beacon of their accomplishments may we be enabled to pierce the gloom of the future, and guide our steps accordingly!"

Pacific Coast Bulletin, May 30, 1924, Page 1



NEW MEMBERS

The Black Diamond Historical Society is pleased to announce that during calendar year 2008 we acquired the following 45 new members:

Nonie Coby
Edward Andrew Johnson
David Zumek
Harry George Johnson
Black Diamond Bakery
Althea Petchnick Craig
Ken Jensen
Mr. & Mrs. Deryl Sleigh
Dennis E. Williams
Joseph Lombardini
Arthur Lee Johnson
Kenneth E. Williams
David J. Morris
Robert B. & Betty C. VanVleck
Tom & Janelle Noller
Rebecca Teeters
Black Diamond Elementary School
Russel & Joan Bryant
Derek & Valerie Sheedy
Margaret Evans White
Roy Dal Santo
Lauren Asher and Joe, Julie & Margaret
Alice Morris
Lynne Evans Bonnell
Southport Land & Commercial Co.
Leih Mulvihill
Gomer Evans
Rick Pierotti
David & Johna Thomson
Richard Cecchi
Chris & Kathi Roulst
Jeff, Lisa, Seth & Ehvon Bingaman
Diana Boxx
Margaret Henry Brown
Carolyn Herrera
Christine E. Mead
Virginia Summers Olsen
Kim Palmer
Karl Berg
Jerrine Hope
Jeanne Riggs
Fonda Ranta Wilson Zimmerman
Mickie Greenside

And we have the following 7 new members already in 2009:

Lois Clapper
John & Nancy Bunten
Becky Jack
Ruby Favro Androsko Keeney
Jim Wetton
Ron & Eileen Wyke
Arlene Malatesta Parkin

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO SOCIETY MEMBERS:

Apr. 01	Louis Draghi
Apr. 02	Joan Malgarini Traylor
Apr. 04	David Jones
Apr. 05	Paul Goldsberry
Apr. 06	Betty Malgarini Manieri
Apr. 07	Inez Costi Aden
Apr. 08	Clyde William Johnson
Apr. 09	Kay Traverso
Apr. 10	Joseph Lombardini
Apr. 12	Howard Botts
Apr. 12	Joan Zita Clark
Apr. 12	Glenn Fredericksen
Apr. 12	Marsha Smith Mott
Apr. 14	Ivor Merryfield
Apr. 16	Leasha Tyerman Janet
Apr. 16	Ralph Uhrig
Apr. 17	Carol Baumgartner
Apr. 20	Mark Witman
Apr. 23	Roy Callero Jr.
Apr. 24	David Zumek
Apr. 27	Jackie L. Holmes
May 01	Ted Barber
May 02	Jack Cartwright
May 03	Gino Picini
May 04	Lois Gormley Wieltschnig
May 05	Jerold L. Thompson
May 06	David J. Morris
May 08	Joyce Dal Santo Lyons
May 11	Gertrude Haworth Botts
May 13	Ruth Ayers Hofto
May 13	Susie Thompson
May 13	Kenneth W. Unick
May 16	Gale Hendrickson
May 19	Jane Ulman Jones
May 22	Steve Kitz
May 24	Brian H. Mead
May 27	Esther Pennacchi Birch
May 27	Jeanne McGurnse Norman
May 29	Arlene Guidetti Hendrickson
Jun. ??	Ruth Mills Kerkes

(Continued on page 7)

GUESTS

By: Don "Doc" Botts



During the month of **Dec. 2008 we had 93 guests, Jan. 2009 we had 204 guests and Feb. 2009 we had 195 guests.** Making a 3-month total of **492 guests** to the Museum. There were visitors from **8 States:** Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming, and here in Washington. There were also people visiting from other places, such as Canada, and China.

REMARKS MADE BY OUR GUESTS

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

Wonderful, Very interesting-Would love to come back, Great, Magical, Fantastic, Good job, Oh my goodness! I love it!!!, Wonderful exhibits-very clean & tidy, Groovy, Saw many things from my childhood, Learned a lot about a lot of old things, Excellent museum, Very informative, Oh my gosh-This is too interesting!, Really well done, What a neat place.

(Continued from page 6)

Jun. 01 Beth Barber
Jun. 01 Mary Darby
Jun. 01 Arthur L. Johnson
Jun. 01 Junette Larson
Jun. 02 Bob Burke
Jun. 03 Audrey Petchnick Sellman
Jun. 05 Julianne Dal Santo McNeeley
Jun. 11 Frank Fosnacht
Jun. 12 Anthony Di Julio
Jun. 13 Virginia Givens Kessner
Jun. 14 Jake Logar
Jun. 14 Bunny McKnight
Jun. 15 Pauline Herbert Lane
Jun. 15 Southport Land & Commercial
Co. Incorporated 1861
Jun. 17 Margaret Franz Pearce
Jun. 18 Anna Morris
Jun. 19 Tom Taff
Jun. 23 Bob Smith
Jun. 23 Lois Thomas Zumek Estby
Jun. 24 Marilyn Bradford Covey
Jun. 27 Mary P. Keehner
Jun. 27 Keith C. Watson
Jun. 28 Ralph E. Dockham
Jun. 30 Steve Israel
Jul. ?? Mama Passarelli's opened 2004
Jul. 04 Robert O. Doyer
Jul. 05 Betty Johnson Blakeney
Jul. 05 William Kombol
Jul. 06 Keith Deaver
Jul. 06 Becky Van Buskirk Jack
Jul. 06 Jean Mitchell Kelly
Jul. 07 Laura J. Trover Shipley
Jul. 11 Lorraine Hope
Jul. 14 Kristi Roberts Satterlee
Jul. 16 Robin MacNeill

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

MEMORIAL DONATIONS IN MEMORY of:

Duane Roehrick, by Ethel Estby Johnson.
Matt Starwich, by Paula R. Perkins.
Dale Traylor, by Don & Joan Malgarini.
Patrick (PJ) Walsh, by Linda Maks and Donald (Doc) Botts.
Rei Matsumura, by B of A Matching with Julia (Judy) Young, Beth Van Buskirk, Douglas & Barbara Kanaya, Don & Joan Malgarini

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS BY:

Ralph & Betty Uhrig
Carolyn Conforti
Anna Thorsett
David C. Walsh
David & Marjory Velthausen
Robert M. Smith
Darryl & Jackie Buss

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.

LOOKING BACK: THIRTY YEARS AGO

By JoAnne Matsumura

Ah, to be back in the not so long ago good old days of April 1979, when prices seemed reasonable, life seemed simpler, slower paced, and neighbors actually knew one-another and helped in time of need. The automobile speedometer was about 80 mph maximum, and software meant a warm pair of fuzzy slippers.

There were still rotary telephones, Dixie cup ice cream, and cameras with flashbulbs. Mount St. Helens would erupt in a year, and the Black Diamond Historical Society was just a few years old. There is clear evidence that the Black Diamond community spirit has not changed.

We lost more good community members thirty years ago, but they are not forgotten: David Jacob Coby, Frank Holly, Glen C. Gotcher, Clarice (Molly) Owens, Jack Kombol, Val (Teenie) Sternig, and Joseph Metzler who was 96 years old. The Society fathers decided that a memorial fund should be set up and special acknowledgement donation cards were made.

The Society held their 2nd Annual Antique Appraisal on May 5th, 1979, and while the attendance was small they profited more than \$200.00. Kudos were given to Vernon Smith, who appraised firearms, Jim Smithhart, watches and Florence Garrett, who appraised dishes, glassware and other items. Also to Elaine Griffin for posters and ads and the many other volunteers who made cookies and helping in general.

Plans were moving along for the reconstruction of the “bay window” on the platform with funding approved by HUD. With the wiring to be completed by June the Society was looking forward to holding meetings in the depot building.

The Editor announced that the 22nd Annual Pioneer’s Picnic would be held at the Lake Sawyer Resort on Sunday July 15, 1979.

The Society had held their election of officers and board members. Members who were elected to the board then and are still serving the Society in the same capacity are Howard Botts and Don Mason. When you see them, tell them Thanks for Serving!

Interesting tid-bits from the high school paper the “Sparkler” of 1931 and 1932 was included in the April 1979 issue of the newsletter.

Special feature in the Society’s April 1979 newsletter was a photograph and the June 6, 1882 letter from Morgan Morgans, courtesy of Mrs. Walter J. Morgans. Morgan Morgans was the grandfather of Walter Morgans. This let-



ter in its entirety has been replicated in a framed large poster board format and is on display near the Museum’s high school room. We take this time to again thank Conrad ‘Coke’ Roberts for donating this poster board and to Clayton Mead for the excellent work in reconstructing a large frame to fit the poster board.

The incorporation of the City of Black Diamond had just turned 20 years old.

Gasoline prices of the day were at 71.9 cents with one cent added for tax in July 1979.

Tammy Darby was selected to join the 1979 instructional staff of the international Cheerleading Foundation. She will travel across the Nation teaching cheerleading to High School Students.

Whitney Sleigh traveled to Australia as part of a cultural exchange tour of student athletes.

Vivian Bainton served as Mayor during this time. And Louis Zumek donated the ever-popular High School Newspaper the *SPARKLER* for 1931 and 1932 for the Archives.

So until next time, HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU, UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.

SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

By Don “Doc” Botts and JoAnne Matsumura

Be it volunteering your time or donations towards the discovery, preservation and disseminating of our rich vein of history, we invite all interested citizens of Black Diamond history to join us in this ongoing and evolutionary process, in whatever manner you can.

We thank Krista for volunteering for the Society’s Research Center. Through her efforts we now have available for study and research copies of *The Black Diamond Times*, a publication from the students of the Black Diamond Elementary School. Thanks Krista for a job well done!

On a cold crisp clear day Paul Hager dressed for the occasion to help our building be more secure by installing special outdoor light fixtures that brings additional light along the Museum’s platform. Thank you Paul and his assistant Keith Watson for upgrading our security-----it’s a comfortable feeling.



DOINGS AROUND THE CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND

In mid February the Black Diamond Community Center hosted a Valentine Luncheon and the food was excellent.



Attending the luncheon was long time Mayor Howard Botts and he announced his intentions to run for re-election for four more years. He said he has had two loves in his life; Dorothy his wife and the City of Black Diamond. Howard is also a Black Diamond Historical Society Board member.



At the same luncheon, our oldest Black Diamond person was celebrating her 102nd birthday. Her name is Ruby Favro Androsko Keeney and she was born in Black Diamond in 1907 graduating from the High School in the class of 1926. Her son, Joe Androsko

was in attendance to help her celebrate her birthday. Ruby is very alert and sharp with a wonderful sense of humor and a face that shows hardly any blemishes for which she attributes to using "Oil of Olay" face cream. She has a clear memory of her days growing up as a teen in Black Diamond.

In 1959 the town of Black Diamond became an incorporated city. The 50th Anniversary celebration will last all thru 2009 and the city created a calendar with historic pictures to help us remember our heritage. The calendar features pictures from 1959 to present with pictures of the brick High School, Community Center, Community Center Gym, aerial view of the Museum, Black Diamond Museum volunteers dressed in period costume, the Luigi and Aurora Pagani historical house, former Mayor Gomer Evans with his children posing in front of the project houses, Mayor Howard Botts in his convertible during a Black Diamond Labor Day event, Al's Service Station which is now the Black Diamond Garden Shop, Doctor Botts with three children dressed as dwarves for the Labor Day parade, the Show Hall, Carl and Ann Steiert who help start the Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum, view of Railroad Avenue showing the Bakery, Meat Market, General Store, Garage, Kings Tavern, and the Train Depot. The calendar also features two pages of 50 great things to do in Black Diamond. The theme of the 50th anniversary is "Looking Back, Moving Forward". The calendar is available around town and for our out of town members will be available thru the Museum by a special arrangement with the city, postage paid, for \$5.00. The pictures bring back a lot of fond memories. Judith Black, Executive Director of the Black Diamond Community Center, wrote a great little poem about the calendar that goes like this:

Black Diamond is turning 50, wouldn't it be nifty
If you knew just what you could do
From the Polar Bear plunge
To the seniors having fun
Miners Day, Labor Day, on to the end of the year
Looking Back, Moving Forward
It is all listed in order, 50 fun things to do.
Judith Black

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

The Black Diamond Community Center is what Black Diamond is all about. Judith Black with her staff and group of volunteers continue to do great work for the whole community. They go the extra mile to serve those who need help as well as provide services for Seniors, Youth Groups and others in the community. What a wonderful asset they provide continuing to contribute to the health of Black Diamond year after year.



The Kick Off for the 50th anniversary started on Feb. 19th with a shortened meeting of the City Council at the Community Center followed by presentations from the first City Clerk, Donna Gauthier who stated that her city office was in her 900 square foot home where she did her City Clerk job and while raising her three children. There was no City Hall so she took phone calls for the city on her home phone. She was paid \$50 a month and according to former Mayor Gomer Evans did a wonderful job for eleven years. Gertrude Botts, also attended and was on the first City Council. She let us know about some of the things she experienced.

Former Mayor Gomer Evans, who is also on the Board of Directors for the Black Diamond Historical Society, told us of the lack of paved streets and the need to use a road grader almost every day to keep the streets in shape. He also told of his family and the good time they had growing up in Black Diamond. Gomer also served on the first City Council. He also became Town Marshall and volunteered to run the town road grader. As Marshall he was given a raise to \$50 a month and had unpaid Deputies who were kept busy with the 60 houses in the projects and the 4 taverns in the city. Gomer, in

1974, was elected Mayor and served for four years in that office. King County gave the city \$236 to maintain the roads and lights in the Projects. He said the city budget in 1967 was \$22,000. The City Hall was built for \$67,000 in 1967. The following years brought challenges to the water supply and sewer systems. In 1975 the citizens voted to convert the railroad depot to a museum. Gomer thanked the citizens for the contributions they made to make Black Diamond a very wonderful place to live. To top off the event, a cake with pictures from the calendar in icing, was served with ice cream along with home made cookies, punch, and coffee. This was a real fun event.

The City has been impacted with the unfortunate closure of the Kummer Bridge that crosses the Green River on Highway 169. The ground on the south side of the bridge started to move and causing the bridge to be unsafe. The State is working on the problem and last report says it hopes to open the bridge some time in June or July. The Chamber of Commerce and the City of Black Diamond, along with the Federal Government, have been working with local businesses to help them because of the lack of traffic through the Down Town area. The City is also replacing the water line under Railroad Avenue and has worked with the people affected to keep that impact as low as possible.

If you are interested in information about the City, go to: www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us. You can find quick links for more information relating to the 169 bridge closure and environmental impact statements for the Yarrow Bay master planned developments among other interesting subjects. The Web site also has a link to the Black Diamond Municipal Code, plus City Departmental pages. The Web site is updated on a regular basis. Yes, the City is continuing to grow and is meeting the challenges with planned deliberation.

Keith Watson

FLYING THE FLAG

By JoAnne Matsumura

On June 14th, 1777 The Stars and Stripes became the U.S. flag, and people across the country have celebrated Flag Day on June 14th ever since, in many different ways.

In 1818 lawmakers agreed to keep the stripes at 13 and began to change the number of stars. By 1912 there were 48 states and President William Taft ordered that the stars should be in rows.

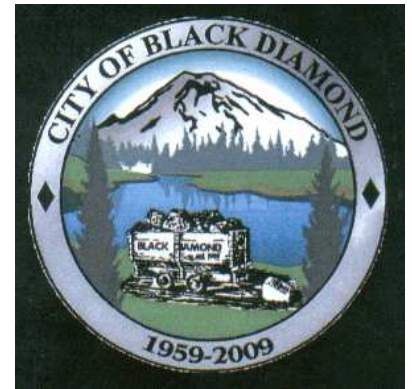
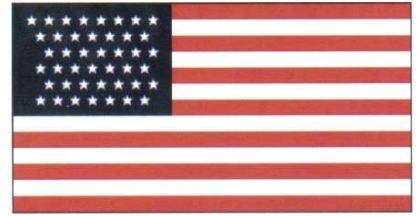
President Grover Cleveland selected the anniversary of George Washington's birthday, February 22, 1889, to sign the act creating the state of Washington. His proclamation of admission was not issued until November 11, 1889 by U.S. President Benjamin Harrison signing the bill admitting Washington to become the 42nd state of the United States of America, under the 43 star U.S. Flag, along with North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho and Montana.

Shortly after 1893 it was recommended that the day be known as Flag Day, and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercise with each child being given a small flag.

President Woodrow Wilson officially established by Proclamation on May 30th, 1916, Flag Day to be June 14th. However, it was not until August 3, 1949 that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

In 1923 Washington State issued "The Seal of the State of Washington 1889" on a flag of green color.

And in 2009 the City fathers of Black Diamond authorized the "City of Black Diamond" logo be placed to an official flag for the City of Black Diamond now celebrating its 50th Anniversary of Incorporation.



IN MEMORIAM

✿ Gone but not forgotten ✿

By JoAnne Matsumura

✿ **Gene Robinson**, a lifetime member prior to 1988 passed away in 2008. He attended the Black Diamond Schools.

✿ **Pauline (Penny) Herbal Lane**, was born June 15, 1914 to George and Lydia Steinle Herbal, and passed away on March 13, 2009 in Liberal, Kansas. Penny cherished her childhood memories of growing up in a loving extended family in the Oklahoma Panhandle. She began her teaching career at a little country school 12 miles from home for an eight-month year at \$65.00 a month.

Penny began teaching seventh grade in Hooker, Oklahoma in 1941 and in 1947 she moved to Seattle. Penny was one of the first remedial reading teachers, creating her own classroom curriculum in Fall City. She taught reading in the Snoqualmie School District until her retirement in 1978.

Penny married C. E. 'Ed' Lane on December 31, 1955 in North Bend, WA and continued teaching as a private tutor for many years. Ed Lane preceded her in death.

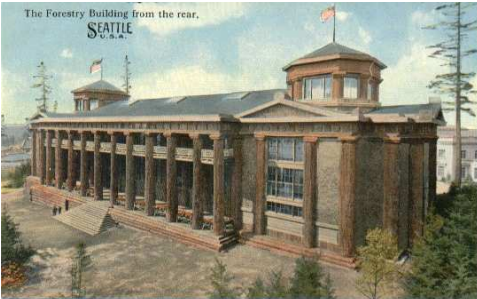
Her stepdaughter, Wanda Melin survives her.



TIMBER AND THE "BIG STICK" 1909 ALASKA-YUKON-PACIFIC EXPOSITION FORESTRY BUILDING

By JoAnne Matsumura

The Washington State Forestry Building of pergola of fir logs was the most striking structure at the exposition and had more visitors than many of the other exposition exhibit buildings. Exhibits in the forestry building showed various stages of the manufacture of lumber from the rough log to the finished product. The building was finished in April 1909 at a total cost of \$300,000.



The forestry building is one of the seven structures built by the state that became the property of the University of Washington when the exposition closed. It was

then used for classes of learning to students taking the forestry course. The building later became the Washington State Museum. The building is similar to early Greek temples done in rustic, with fir logs from "five to six feet in diameter and from forty to fifty feet in length for pillars".

A concrete pier supported each pillar, the weight of 50,000 pounds. Each pier is capable of carrying a load of 160 tons, and the building "should last a century". There are no planed surfaces in the 8,000,000 feet of lumber used. The outside pillars have their bark as they came from the forest. The inner building's column logs have been stripped. A derrick was used in raising the 50,000-pound 'sticks'.

The building is a "city block" in length with the front of the building at 320 feet, 124 logs supporting its roof, and 144 feet in width. There are two pavilions and a curved colonnade. Forty feet above the ground was a rustic balcony where visitors had an excellent view of the exposition grounds. At each end of the building log towers were connected by stairways to the balcony.

The Washington State fir logs were selected for their symmetry and soundness. It was necessary to build a spur track from the Northern Pacific to the back door of the structure to get the logs to the



building site. Two flat cars were required to carry one of the huge 54-foot logs.

The timber testing plant in an adjoining building gave demonstrations of "timbers of every kind and all sizes to the breaking point"



The Hoo Hoo Lumberman's organization built their own bungalow Hoo Hoo House near the forestry building with meeting rooms, banquet room, dance floor, assembly room, checkrooms, information bureau, and mailroom. There was also a reception and waiting room for the 'ladies'. The membership fee was \$9.99.

The forestry building did not last the 'century' the organizers had so hoped for. In 1926 Willis B. Merriam, then age 21 visited the structure and penned a poem of nostalgic value. It is published elsewhere in this newsletter.

JUNE FUN WITH OLD SCHOOL FRIENDS



Ruby

The Black Diamond School Reunion Committee is busy planning our 2009 reunion for June. We have sent out the first mailing to all of the former students of the Black Diamond School 1958 and earlier to give them the heads up on the date of June 3rd.

We will have the reunion at the Black Diamond Community Center. Every year the reunion has gotten better and better and we think this year will be one of our best. Joe Androsko, who has lived in Black Diamond all of his life will be our master of ceremonies. His mother Ruby is our oldest citizen born in Black Diamond, she is 102 years old and we look forward to having her at the reunion.

The Community Center Director, Judith Black, with lots of help will be cooking another delicious meal for us at a very reasonable price.

The Historical Society will be hosting "Welch Day" at the Museum the weekend after the reunion, June 6th. This will be a great opportunity to take in both events.

Those serving on the School Committee are: Coke Roberts, chair; Dorothy Botts, Sec.; Elsie Parkin, Treas.; and committee members Joe Androsko, Gomer Evans, Keith and Judy Watson.

The former Black Diamond School students, 1958 and earlier will receive a second mailing by the first part of April with all of the details and a reservation form to be sent in with their money.

We look forward to seeing you in June.

Dorothy Botts, Sec.

WILKESON CENTENIAL CELEBRATION

Each year, on the third weekend of July, the town of Wilkeson sponsors a parade and Handcar Races. This year, Saturday, July 18th, 2009 we plan to make it a big centennial celebration. We are starting the day off with the town's centennial monument unveiling & dedication at 10am. The large, carved sandstone monument will commemorate the coal miners and Sandstone Quarry men who lived and worked in Wilkeson. It will be located in a prominent spot in downtown Wilkeson and we hope to have regional and state dignitaries at this event. We will be celebrating our rich ethnic history, which includes many immigrants who came from Wales, Italy, Poland, Norway, Finland, England and many other countries. They arrived to work the coalmines and sandstone quarries and dream of a better future. Due to the closure of the mines and economic changes, most of these families have since settled elsewhere in Washington including Black Diamond whose mining operations lasted longer than Wilkeson. We believe it is time to demonstrate some of these traditions, such as foods, dances, or participation in the town parade. We will also have children's games, an old fashion tug-of-war, vendors, handcar and lawnmower races, and the Seattle Cossacks will perform at noon. The new Wilkeson Historical Society would love for you to be a part of our celebration.

Sincerely,

Donna Hogerhuis, Centennial Chair and WHS President, 360-829-4281.

THE OLD GRAY GOOSE

By JoAnne Matsumura

She was a young school student who had the task of going to the post office, as that was the only way you could get your mail. She usually went on her lunch hour, taking a short cut, as the post office was down the hill from the school (the hill where the Eagles Hall is now). It was a little closer than going around on the road.

"We would go "kitty corner" behind the hotel to get there. A hotel employee who did odd jobs for them had an "old gray goose that was meaner than sin!" The old gray goose may have been teased so much "that he attacked anyone who came near." It was important to survey the area to see where he was, before venturing down the hill.

Being a little late going for the mail one day, while still being lunchtime before bell time, she ventured to the post office. She could not go after school for the mail because the bus was prompt in leaving.

"I came to the area where I'd have to go in back of the hotel. I looked all around for that "darned goose" and finally saw him with his back to me. He was about 250 feet away. I figured I'd be able to make it to the post office without him seeing me. Boy, was that a mistake! He started for me, half running and half flying! Before I knew it, he was right in front of me with his long neck and head down and hissing like mad! I tried to keep going and hoped he would leave me alone if I didn't aggravate him. Another mistake! The trail was muddy going down the hill. I realized I'd have to defend myself if I could. I kicked at him just as he was going to flail me with his wings. I slipped in the mud, and landed on his neck! His head was behind me when I sat on him. The rest of the goose was in front of me. One of

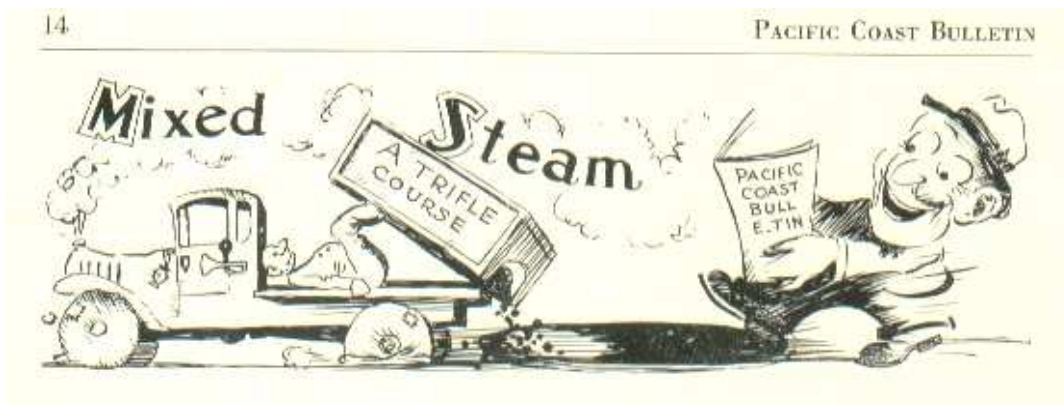
my feet and legs was on each side of him. At 120lbs., I must have "knocked the wind out of him"! I was mad and scared. I had to get up, but I was afraid of what he might do to me! I got up; wondering what to do. There wasn't a soul around to help me. The goose was slow to get up. I was afraid I had killed him accidentally. He finally got up, looking around like he was confused. He started away from me. I thought I'd get the last lick in. By then, I was getting madder. I booted him like a football! He took off, half flying and

half running. He didn't hiss anymore, just let out a screeching "Aawk". He looked sort of dizzy and sort of cross-eyed when he got up. He took off like he was possessed, for parts unknown! I was afraid I'd be in trouble for kicking

at him. I guess no one saw the incident as no one said anything to me.

"I don't remember seeing that goose after that, come to think of it. I assumed at the time, that he was staying away from the kids. I'm sure he didn't know what struck him! He used to flog people terribly. Most people were terrified of him, including me. I'm a little leery of geese to this day." The young student is one of Black Diamond's long time resident, Dorothy Franz Corlett. Thanks for the memories Dorothy.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!



Membership and Renewal Form

Date _____ Birth Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

If this is a gift, who from? _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Individual \$10.00

Family \$15.00

Organization \$30.00

Lifetime (Individual) \$100.00

Donation \$ _____

Other _____ \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

New

Renewal

Cash

Check

Payable To: BDHS
Mail To: Black Diamond
Historical Society
P.O. Box 232
Black Diamond, WA
98010

Please note on all checks what it is for.

(Museum Use Only) Date: _____

Initials: _____

File: _____

OFF THE GROUNDS

Keith Watson, left, assists Don Mason on a Franklin tour. Don's study of the history of Franklin has earned him the name "The Mayor of Franklin".

Posters of how it used to look, helps the tourists visualize the town when it was busy producing coal and raising families.

The only visual remains of the town are a few concrete foundations, and the picture that Don constructs in our minds.





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Membership due date is on your label.

MEMBERSHIP GATHERING

**1:30 PM, Sunday April 26th,
At the Museum**

Join us for a special Program

**MONTHLY BOARD
MEETINGS**

**1:00 PM
3rd Thursday
Of Each Month**

The Black Diamond Historical Society

**is a non profit organization.
Our funding comes mainly
from donations, dues, and
some grants.**

**The restoration and mainte-
nance of the Museum and its
contents are done by volun-
teers.**

**To donate your time or money
would be a great way for you to
help preserve your history.
Find out more in this issue!**