



Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum

Printed Quarterly



July 2009

PICTURES OF THE PAST



Students make a big hit at the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition

The Kangley, WA “school made some nice exhibits for the A. Y. P. Exposition”, and the Selleck school bell may be the only object left of District #74 that included the Kangley and Selleck school students. The 15 students of District #74 participating in the A. Y. P. Exposition school exhibits are from the families of Lavender, Bowden, McDermott, Ramage, Brown, Fell and Blevins.

In October of 1904 Miss Agnes McKinnon began teaching Kangley students in a one-room schoolhouse for the sum of \$65.00 per month for grades one through nine, with a seating capacity of 48. “The new school house at Kangley is neat and convenient and adds very much to the industrious little hamlet. The teacher at this place performs her duties well and is very popular.” By November “the little school has just been finished and furnished of which it may be justly

proud and its teacher Miss McKinnon of Enumclaw though teaching her first school is giving excellent satisfaction.”

By April 1909 County School superintendent Storey was arranging for the Enumclaw contribution to the well organized educational exhibits now being prepared by the county schools for the A. Y. P. Exposition. The exhibits comprised essays and illustrative matter furnished by the public schools of various districts. The people gave every aid and encouragement to this work. It was stated to be “of a most valuable character”.

We still hear the school bell ring from time to time from students and adults who visit the Black Diamond Museum.

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

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

To send material for the Newsletter, contact:
Steve Israel, Editor BDHS
P.O. Box 232, Black Diamond, WA 98010
360-886-2582 homecareconst@comcast.net
Newsletter articles due September 17th, 2009.

For address changes or corrections, contact:
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

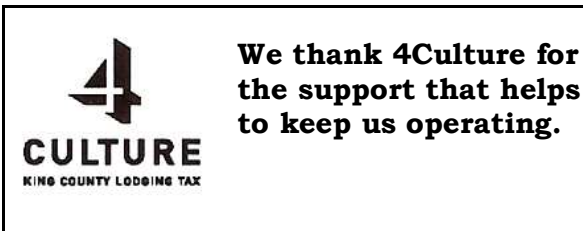
CONTACT INFORMATION

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



Presidents Message



As this is being written we are having record good June weather. Here in the City we have been challenged with the lack of traffic on Highway 169 due to the closure of the Kummer Bridge to Enumclaw. The businesses have struggled with the loss of traffic, the school has had to

adjust to different bus routes, and we at the Museum have had a drop in walk-in traffic. The bridge is scheduled to be finished with its repair by July 4th.

The good weather has helped us with the big events that have occurred in June. June 3rd we had the annual Black Diamond School Reunion at the Black Diamond Community Center. Attendance was up 17 percent from 2008 and this was made possible by the hard work of a great group of people including members of the Black Diamond Historical Society.



The decorations, food, volunteers, class picture presentations, and program were first class. Joe Androsko, from the class of 1954, was Master of Ceremonies and did a wonderful job. He was able to have a handful of alumni give short talks about their recollections of their time in Black Diamond. Next

year the Reunion will be on June 2nd and anyone who would like to help us with ideas, pointers, or would like to be on the 2010 Reunion Committee should call the Museum at 360-886-2142.



The Welsh Heritage Day Celebration was a resounding success. On June 6th we had a capacity crowd here at the Museum. Welsh music by the group "Dinas o' Frain" [The City of Crows] was

played and then we had the pleasure of hearing about the "Welsh Immigration to North America" in a talk given by Dr. Gary A. Zimmerman, a well know local historian. Refresh-



ments were served after the program and were welcomed by the attendees. These events don't happen by themselves. Don Mason and Anna Morris was the committee who worked on the event and did a super great job. Others helped with many volunteer hours and we were pleased with the wonderful turnout.

The City of Black Diamond is celebrating its 50th year of incorporation. There have been events planned to celebrate this anniversary all through the year of 2009. The next event is "Miners Day" and is sponsored by the Diamond Masons on July 11th which is a Saturday and will be held in the parking lot of the Masons on Highway 169 and Baker Street. Of course, the largest day of celebration will be Labor Day with the parade and auto show and great events at the ball field. This occurs on Sept. 7th and the Museum will be open special hours 10 AM to 4 PM with sales tables outside on the Board Walk. The City will also be having a "City Block Party" on Sept. 26th along Rail Road Avenue. Look for additional information in the future.

The Black Diamond Historical Society will hold its General Membership Meeting on Sunday Oct. 25th at 1:30 for an update on what the Society is doing and we would love to have all of you attend and give us your input. The Veterans Day event will follow the Auburn Veterans Parade and will be held at 1:30 Saturday November 7th here at the Museum. We will be having a program on the history of the United States Submarine Service and the highlight of the event will be the display of the Submarine Parade Float the United States Submarine Veterans used in the Auburn Parade.

Mark your calendars for the Museum Open House and Christmas Celebration on Saturday Dec. 12th at 1 PM. The Museum will be decorated inside and out for this wonderful holiday. Songs will be heard and refreshments served. Try to attend all of

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EDITOR'S CORNER

We received a letter to the Society regarding the Welsh Day Celebration:

"I want to thank the Black Diamond Historical Society for

putting on such a good show for us. I was very impressed with everything and touched by the friendship and warmth shown to us. The tea was splendid.

One young man from Aberaeron, Wales and I spoke Welsh. I also picked up some of your leaflets and have sent them to a Welsh friend in Connecticut.

*We did have a wonderful time.
Diolch yn fawr.
Rhona Skibinski"*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

July 4 - Saturday **INDEPENDENCE DAY** the Museum will be open from 12 - 4

July 11 - Saturday : **Miners Day**@ Masons parking lot

September 7 - Monday: **Labor Day** the Museum will be open from 10AM to 4PM,

September 26 - Saturday: **City Block Party** along Railroad Ave

October 25 - Sunday 1:30: **General Membership Meeting** at the Museum

November 7 - Saturday 1:30: **Veterans Day** at the Museum

December 12 - Saturday 1:00: **Museum Open House and Christmas Celebration**

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the mentioned events and just have some old fashioned fun.

We are working hard to have the old Fire and Mining Emergency Siren working and in good order so we can hear it on Labor Day. Gomer Evans has been working endless hours and many miles to help with the Siren Project. We have many people who have helped us with this project and when it is all done we will give special mention to all those who helped.

Hope your summer is as good as it gets!
Keith Watson



SECRETARY REPORT

By Dee Israel

EDUCATION/OUTREACH: Chair Coke Roberts, with the help of Don Mason, Don Malgarini & Keith Watson are having a Summer Program for kids at the museum on Thursdays. It will be from 10:00 to 10:30 am, starting June 4, 2009 thru August 27, 2009.

FACILITIES & GROUNDS: Chair, Don Malgarini – Projects that are in the works are: 1. Repair of the boardwalk. 2. Exterior handrail replacement. 3. Exterior lighting upgrade. 4. Upgrade of exit signs. 5. Restoration of the exterior pew bench. 6. Addition of a Front door bell. And 7. The siren project. (When the siren was hooked up and tested, we found that it wouldn't run at its full capacity. We believe that we can get the motor restored, but it will take some time.)

FRANKLIN CLEANUP: Chair Don Mason – The Green River Coalition scheduled a cleanup along the Green River for Saturday, May 2, 2009. Don volunteered the Black Diamond Historical Society/Museum & friends would clean up the Franklin area on that day, for the project. He announced that he had a good turnout of 15 volunteers. Besides himself, Bob Thompson, Steve Israel, and Clayton Mead were the volunteers from the BDHS.

MEMBERSHIP: Chair Dee Israel - We now have a total of 309 members.

PROGRAMS: Chair Howard Botts – advises that The Green River Bridge (between Black Diamond & Enumclaw) is scheduled for reopening by July 4th, 2009 with a special ceremony.

For the **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** on April 26th we had speaker William (Bill) Kombol who is the manager of Palmer Coking Coal Company located along Highway 169 in Black Diamond. The Palmer Coking Coal Company is a family owned business that has served South King County's material needs since 1933. Bill authors a Historical Feature, "When Coal was King", which is printed in the "Voice of the Valley" newspaper. He also contributes to the Free



Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History "HistoryLink.org". Bill is a member of the Black Diamond Historical Society and has helped our Society with many projects. Mr. Kombol showed some great old pictures and gave a great talk about the people & coal of the area.

BDHS Member Bob Eaton introduced himself and mentioned that he used to be one of the volunteers but his health has not allowed him to be involved like he used to be and appreciates the fact that the museum volunteers are still doing a great job in keeping up the museum and keeping it going. JoAnne Matsumura then stated that if it hadn't been for folks like Mr. Eaton, the Museum would not be where it is today.

We had a great **MEMORIAL DAY PRESENTATION** by Keith Watson on May 23rd. It was about "The Home Front in Black Diamond during WWII". There were 32 attendee's.

The **BLACK DIAMOND SCHOOL REUNION** at the Black Diamond Community Center on June 3rd was very successful! There were 130 attendees vs. 108 for 2008. Many people planned and coordinated this successful event.

The **WELSH HERITAGE DAY** on June 6th that was chaired by Don Mason & Anna Morris was a huge success with 90 plus attendees! Several visitors had positive comments. Also, the cookie providers did a wonderful job with refreshments. Noted Local Historian Gary A. Zimmerman spoke about Welsh immigration to the Pacific NW, and there was live Celtic Music with a Welsh flavor provided by "DINAS o' FRAIN (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 it has become today.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chair JoAnne Matsumura – We now have a new brochure to advertise the Black Diamond Museum. You will find a non-folded one included with this newsletter.

The 4-Culture publication "Destination Heritage" (which is free to the public) is available at the Black Diamond Museum.

JoAnne Matsumura and Diane & Cory Olson of the Black Diamond Historical Society were nomi-

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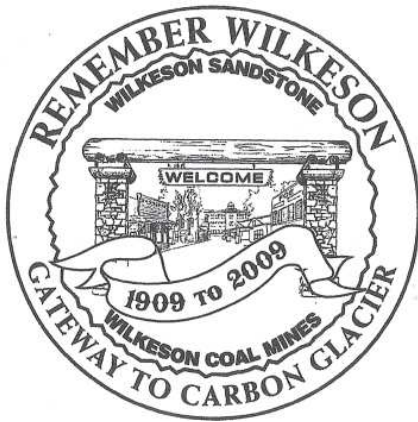
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nated for the AKCHO'S (Association of King County Historical Organizations) prestigious annual awards this year. JoAnne for "The Willard Jue Memorial Award for Volunteer" and Cory & Diane Olson for the "Virginia Marie Folkins Award" for "Black Diamond: Mining the Memories". The AKCHO Awards event was held at MOHAI (Museum of History & Industry) on Tuesday, April 28th. Although they weren't the winners, they did have the honor of being nominated.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Chair Don Botts – Announced that the Museum will be open on Independence Day (July 4th).

The next scheduled Board Meeting will be held at **1:00 on (Thursday) July 16, 2009.**

The next scheduled Society Membership Meeting will be held at **1:30 on (Sunday) October 25, 2009.**



**Please join us in celebrating the
Town of Wilkeson's
100th year of incorporation!**

When: Saturday, July 18, 2009

Where: Centennial Park near Town Hall

10 a.m. – Monument Dedication

"Honoring Coal Miners and Sandstone Quarrymen"

Followed by the town parade and the Annual
Handcar Race

*Event with the Seattle Cossacks, Lawnmower Races,
Entertainment, exhibits, vendors, and children's games.*

DONATIONS

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

MEMORIAL DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF:

Heather D. Gahman, by Audrey L. Sellman.

Beatrice Rossi, by Palmer Coking Coal Co. and Pauline Kombol.

Leo Merlini, by Order of Sons of Italy Lodge #1809.

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS BY:

Donna Marie Bortko

Henry De Lauro

Robert Hannus

K-C Food Corporation

Mike & Bonnie Malgarini

Rainier Classic Chevy Club

Frank & Eleanor Roulst

Dennis Williams

ARCHIVE PRESERVATION FUND BY:

Debra Krause

Charles & Nora Whisenant

Marsha Mott

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.



GUESTS

By: Don Botts



During the month of **March 2009 we had 163 guests, April. 2009 we had 296 guests and May 2009 we had 239 guests.** Making a 3-month total of **698 guests** to the Museum. There were visitors from **10 States:** Alaska, Colorado, California, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and here in Washington. There were also people visiting from other places, such as Canada.

REMARKS MADE BY OUR GUESTS

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

Very nice, Lots of stuff, Very educational, Thanks for all your volunteer work, Awesome, Great exhibits, Wonderful – I’ll use the information for a school project, A treasure of a collection, Enjoyed our visit, Very interesting – We’ll be back, Great place, Love the history, Good place to visit, I enjoy bringing people here, So glad your preserving your history, Beautiful docents, Great museum, Great education for kids, Love visiting – very fun and interesting, Very well done, Beautiful museum, Enjoyed the lecture, Delightful – nice to see the history preserved, The entire town and surrounding area is so interesting-beautiful & fun, All is a dream, Coke is great, What a treasure is this place, Many memories, I love this museum, Thank you for the history.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Black Diamond Historical Society is pleased to announce that during calendar year 2009 we have already acquired the following 15 new members:

Sherry Bandsmen
John & Nancy Bunten
Carol Campbell
Lois Clapper
Cheryl Dal Santo
Bob Hannus
Becky Jack
Ruby Favro Androsko Keeney
Debra Krause
Catherine Magallones
Arlene Malatesta Parkin
Jim Wetton
Charles & Nora Whisenant
WilliamE. & Sachiyo O. Williams
Ron & Eileen Wyke

👤 SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

By Don “Doc” Botts and JoAnne Matsumura

*We couldn't do what we do without
YOU!*

The first quarter of our fiscal year, November, December and January, we had many closed days due to snow above and beyond our usual holiday closure, yet thirty of our thirty-two volunteers reported over 1000 hours of volunteer time. **We couldn't do what needs to be done without volunteers.** Saying ‘Thanks’ does not seem to be enough, yet hope we show in other ways that you are truly appreciated.

Special appreciation goes out to those who with their health issues rarely miss a ‘Thursday Crew’ workday to share and help in the tasks that need to be done.

To those volunteers who provide the ‘Thursday work crew’ nourishment, we can't say ‘Thank you’ enough for your generosity and of your culinary skills.

MEMORIES OF ANNE

From the Album

By JoAnne Matsumura



She was born Anne Magdeline Repov to Mary and Frank Repov on June 11, 1917 in Somerset, Colorado. For a time she was Anna, Annie and in Slovenian, Ancka.

Mary & Frank had immigrated from Slovenia, then part of Austria in the early 1900s. In the early months of Anne's life her mother became ill during the 1918 flu epidemic, and later her father contracted typhoid. Mary & Frank survived and the family prospered. The Repov family, with daughters Mary, Frances, and Anne, soon followed other immigrants to the rich coalmines of Black Diamond, Washington.

With fondness Anne would say that the days in Black Diamond were some of the happiest days of her life, and wished that all children could have the same experience. Quite a baseball player, the biggest interests in her life were playing ball and the small town's winning baseball team.

It was a peaceful time, between the two world wars, and although everyone was poor, everyone was happy. The miners made about \$5.00 a week in the coal mines, yet provided for their families and set aside a little bit from each paycheck so that each child could have a present at the annual town Christmas party. Frank & Mary saw to it that each of their daughters have music lessons. Anne was always proud that her parents were able to provide this luxury on such a small miners income.

When Mary graduated from Black Diamond High School in 1931, the family moved to Auburn, Washington. They settled in a farming area and developed a small raspberry farm along side to dairy farmers of the Galli's, Swanson's, and Dykstra's.

Anne graduated from Auburn High School in 1935, and fondly remembered the many teachers in her life to the very end. Anne was a member of the school orchestra and business commercial club. In 2005 she had a feature part in the celebration with the orchestra's 100th year centennial of current members

Her future husband, Howard Hansen, with marriage proposal, ring and corsage, met Anne at the pier upon her return from Alaska having won the 1938 Au-

burn Merchant's competition with renditions on her accordion. Anne & Howard made their home in Auburn.

When Howard passed away in 1965, Anne remained active in the Slovenian lodge and established a career as a procurement clerk with the General Services Administration. She was eternally young, helping others, they helping her when needed. Surely this helped her reach 91 years young!

Oh, what stories she had of the good ole days in Black Diamond----the bootleggers, the mines, the Company Store, small-town gatherings, neighbor helping neighbor, and the camaraderie of early immigrant----the Italians providing the 'beverage' and the Slovenians providing the music. "Everyone had fun".

Anne passed away on November 6, 2008 in Bellevue, WA the last of her siblings. Her daughters Vicki and Nikki, and a host of descendants survive her. She was interned at Mountain View Cemetery.

✿ IN MEMORIAM ✿

Gone but not forgotten

By JoAnne Matsumura

✿ **Charlene Harris Birkliid**, a lifetime member of the Society passed away on May 17, 2009 while staying in New York.

Charlene was the daughter of Earl & Charlotte Harris, and was born in 1939 in Kent, Washington.

Her volunteerism spanned her entire life, volunteering in Kent and in Black Diamond, specifically for the Labor Day Celebrations, and for the Society.

Charlene worked for The Boeing Company and retired in 1995.

Sons Dennis and Craig survive her. A memorial service was held in Black Diamond on June 6, 2009.

ROYAL COURT TALENT

By JoAnne Matsumura

Young Black Diamond Princess Maid of the 1922 Royal Court of Queens and Princesses, Opal Warden began having her poems published in 1922 when she was 13 years of age. "Miss Warden writes her poems without assistance." In the Pacific Coast Bulletin of June 28, 1923 she penned a poem titled:

"A Rose

By Opal Warden

"Was there ever a blossom
With beauty so fair?
Was there ever a flower
With fragrance more rare---
Than a Rose?"

The delicate petals
The rich heart of gold;
The charm of the colors
For one to behold---
In a Rose.

Was there ever a bud
When in beauty it grew;
Bloomed forth more sweetly
In sunshine and dew---
Than a Rose?"



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES



Gone but not forgotten

By JoAnne Matsumura



✿ Heather D. Gahman
December 7, 1972 – September 29, 2008
Daughter of Audrey Petchnick Sellman

✿ John Hanscom
April 2009
Green River & Franklin project

✿ Ray J. Lombardy
April 5, 2009

✿ Charles L. Lucchesi
August 8, 1920 – April 19, 2009
Widower of Vivian Lucchesi

✿ Beatrice Dernach Rossi
June 5, 1925 – April 18, 2009
Widow of Albert Rossi

✿ Minnie Louis Toman
May 3, 1921- April 17, 2009
Wife of Bill Toman

✿ William George Walker
January 20, 1946 – January 23, 2009
Son of Wanda & Ella Walker

✿ Edith Petchnick Yergensen
1912 - December 19, 2008
Twin of deceased sister,
Adele Petchnick, December 2, 2008



1909 A.Y.P.E. TID-BITS and HONORABLE MENTIONS

By JoAnne Matsumura

- ◆ The smallest souvenir of the State of Washington with the date of purchase is “A Bunch of Shingles made in the smallest shingle mill in the world.”
- ◆ From the Alaska Chitina County mines a 6,000-pound Copper Nugget will be given to Seattle after exhibit “as permanent advertising of Alaska’s copper resources”.
- ◆ That \$5 Million of Gold Dust arrived so that anyone can “pan for Gold at the Fair”.
- ◆ F. G. Ulman, Belle Blanchat and Lillian White served Enumclaw citizens strawberries and cream on Strawberry Day, July 3rd. They had the best turnout of the day.
- ◆ Two young people entered the holy bonds of wedlock in a balloon.
- ◆ Livestock exhibit was over 2,000 head of thoroughbreds, and more than 5,000 birds, 1500 pigeons, 2 cub bears from Kodiak, Alaska among other animals on five acres of “virgin forest.” Six acres of uncleared forest land was set-aside as a paddock for wild animals.
- ◆ Cactus Dahlias became the official flower.
- ◆ The Liberty Bell from Philadelphia was on exhibit at the AYPE in the summer.
- ◆ “Ivory City” is the name by which the AYPE was known.
- ◆ Postmaster General Hitchcock approved a special design for the issue of stamps on June 1st in commemoration of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition.
- ◆ Season tickets were \$10.00 if purchased prior to June 1, 1909.
- ◆ Mr. Gibbons of Palmer, WA was getting a large piece of coal weighing about a ton out of his mine to send to the A.Y.P.E.
- ◆ Enumclaw’s Golden Rod Inn Restaurant is the place to go at the amusement center. Carl Smith, Proprietor.
- ◆ The first child born in town after the fair opened was christened “Aileen Yuela Pacific (AYP) Lalloff Pyne, and here parents were paid \$100.”

- ◆ Enumclaw School District No. 133 were guests of the DAR at the unveiling of the Statue of Washington on June 14th, Flag Day.
- ◆ The “Steamer Flyer” Seattle-Tacoma Route was .50 cents round trip. Sightseeing automobile trips of the area were \$1.00, about a one-hour tour.
- ◆ The Enumclaw Coronet Band that included “some Krain boys” gave a concert on July 3rd with rave reviews. Known are: John Johnson, Joe Malneritch, Walter Bayes, Tommy Cleaver, Roy Jones, Leo Lammers, Matt Paschich, John Retzloff, Frank Weirberger, Perry Lewis, Chris Nelson, and Vernon Van Buskirk.
- ◆ The ‘Fair’ attendance reached over 3.7 million visitors
- ◆ Some Around Town Fair Goers were: J. Slott & Family, A. McDermott, Miss Belle Thompson, Dr. Ulman and mother, John Laush & wife, M. Malneritch & family, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Gauthier and Wilfred Gauthier, Mary and Louise Malatesta, Fred & Hans Weston, and John Lapham



KING COAL COMES WEST: CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

By Harry Berry

During the 1870s coal became a vital factor in the development of the State of Washington. As the Northern Pacific Railroad pushed north from Portland to Tacoma, coal became a key to the continued operation of steam engines and the steam ships serving the West Coast and trade to the Orient.

Coalfields located in the foothills along the Western slopes of the Cascade Mountains were found. The coal was soft bituminous, and was found to be suitable for free burning and conversion to coke used in manufacturing.

By 1871 the Northern Pacific extended the railroad from Tacoma to the coalfields in Wilkeson where a deep shaft and coke ovens were installed. By 1885 the Northern Pacific Railroad was extended to Seattle and Carbonado. The Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad extended the rails from Seattle to Newcastle, Black Diamond and Franklin.

The Pacific Coast Coal Company, a subsidiary of The Pacific Coast Company with headquarters in New York City became a major developer of the coalfields in Black Diamond, Carbonado and Newcastle. Towns for workers were built near the mine locations. These towns were known as 'Company Towns'.

The work ethic of the coal mining communities created a bond among the workers that has lasted throughout the industry. Celebrations for such holidays as July 4th Independence Day, would be

common and festival locations would alternate among the 'Company Towns' from year to year. The first of these 'Company Town' celebrations after the 1921 Strike was held in Black Diamond. After World War II life in Black Diamond was different, and the celebrations were then held on Labor Day in Black Diamond, and have continued since that time.

In support of the workers families the Company would provide schools, churches, retail stores, and movies, which were often free to families and other community necessities.

During World War II through the 1940s the mines near Black Diamond and Wilkeson were the last major mines operating in Western Washington. Workers would alternate between mines as the seasons economy changed.

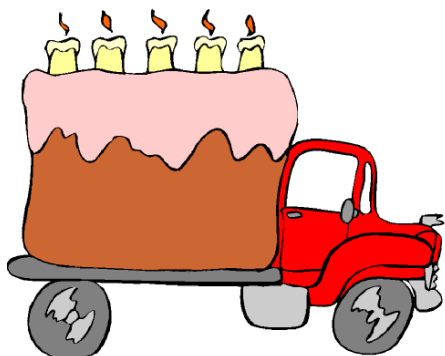
As oil began to replace coal as fuel for steam and diesel engines the coalmines slowly closed. Many of the 'Company Towns' remained, however former miners found other work but elected to retain residence where families had been established in schools, churches and family environs.

Mine owners of 'Company Towns' placed the residential properties for sale at extremely reasonable prices. Elected officials incorporated towns with control.

The year of 2009 is an especially significant year for two of these towns. Black Diamond is celebrating 50 years of Incorporation, and Wilkeson is celebrating its Centennial of Incorporation on July 18, 2009 with a parade, unveiling of a monument and dedication to past miners, along with games for the children, food, dances and a host of other activities.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO SOCIETY MEMBERS:

Jun. 27	Mary P. Keehner	Aug.08	Mia Malgarini
Jun. 27	Keith C. Watson	Aug.08	Carole Brown Watkins
Jun. 28	Ralph E. Dockham	Aug.14	Peter Logar
Jun. 30	Steve Israel	Aug.14	Joan Nachtshiem Malgarini
Jul. ??	Mama Passarelli's opened 2004	Aug.14	Palmer Coking Coal Co. founded
Jul. 04	Robert O. Doyer	Aug.15	Don Lombardini
Jul. 05	Betty Johnson Blakeney	Aug.18	Donald (Doc) Botts
Jul. 05	William Kombol	Aug.18	Marilyn Donati Kienke
Jul. 06	Keith Deaver	Aug.19	Sherrie Acker
Jul. 06	Becky Van Buskirk Jack	Aug.20	Lauren Asher
Jul. 06	Jean Mitchell Kelly	Aug.23	Frank L. Roulst
Jul. 07	Laura J. Trover Shipley	Aug.25	Bill Bremmeyer
Jul. 11	Lorraine Hope	Aug.26	Margaret Morganti Vernarelli
Jul. 14	Kristi Roberts Satterlee	Aug.27	Annamarie Burke
Jul. 15	Bonnie Murray Malgarini	Aug.28	Dave Mitman
Jul. 16	Robin MacNeill	Aug.29	Norma Bradley Gumser
Jul. 19	Russell Bryant	Aug.30	Beth Botts Van Buskirk
Jul. 19	Robert Burke	Aug.31	Lynda Dal Santo Maks
Jul. 21	Lennie Sternig Witt	Aug.31	Tom Noller
Jul. 22	Bert J. Lombardini	Sep.01	Nancy Hester
Jul. 23	Leo Dal Santo	Sep.03	David Walsh
Jul. 25	Virginia Summers Olsen	Sep.04	Margaret McKibben Fowler
Jul. 25	Lynnett Vasicko Stevenson	Sep.06	Charles Whisenant
Jul. 26	Conrad (Coke) Roberts	Sep.07	Richard Toth
Jul. 27	Diana Boxx	Sep.07	James D. Carey
Jul. 27	Don Camerini	Sep.07	Pat Holmes
Jul. 27	Eleanor Roulst	Sep.08	Jerrine Hope
Jul. 28	Mark Hesselbach	Sep.09	Don Malgarini (Grandpa)
Jul. 29	Vera Hughes Toman	Sep.13	Don Malgarini (Grandson)
Jul. 29	Clayton Mead	Sep.14	Roy Dal Santo
Jul. 31	Carolyn Christopher	Sep.15	Ted Myers
Jul. 31	Joey Kitz	Sep.16	Eileen Roberts Hewson
Aug.01	Helen Strom Manowski	Sep.18	Gomer Evans
Aug.02	Jackie Cedarholm	Sep.19	Albert F. Guidetti
Aug.03	Margaret Henry Brown	Sep.20	Rebecca Teeters
Aug.04	Stanley Celigoy	Sep.21	Sam Logar
Aug.04	Dee Robertson Israel	Sep.23	Harry W. Berry
Aug.05	Mrs. Chris Pieren	Sep.24	Judy Shook Hastings
Aug.06	Keith B. Timm Jr.	Sep.25	Lois Clapper
Aug.07	Mike Pennacchi	Sep.27	Dorothy Ferrell Laird
		Sep.28	Nancy Kuzaro
		Oct.01	Olga Grady Swann
		Oct.02	Ray Kravagna
		Oct.03	Don Covey
		Oct.03	Ernest Seliger
		Oct.06	John Malgarini
		Oct.08	Carolyn Donati Henderson
		Oct.08	John Herbert
		Oct.11	Nora Whisenant



Labor Day -- A Time for Children

By Frank Hammock, 2009

The celebration of Labor Day has always been a time to honor the working class and remind us of the prevailing strength and stamina of our trade and labor organizations throughout America. The holiday was always expressed with a variety of events from parades, games, dances, baseball and soccer, prayer, social gatherings, food and picnics. Businesses closed their doors and some of America's best culinary delights would don the tables and blankets at the numerous social gatherings across the land from hamburgers and hotdogs, to grandma's apple pie. There was music and drink, some of it even homemade, and relaxation of every kind enjoyed by all as families, friends, and neighbors gathered to appreciate the holiday and engage in the festivities. Labor Day was also a time to speak out for inequality in labor practices by demonstrations and speeches that brought to light the circumstances that prevailed upon the working class from unfair wages to unsafe conditions.

From the pages of history at the United States Department of Labor web site, we learn that "the first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union"¹ who vowed to create a day off for the working class citizens in honor of their commitment and dedication to the world of work. In the words of Peter J. McGuire, General Secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, Labor Day was to be a time in honor of those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."¹ Thus, the celebration has been a time-honored tradition that continues to the present day.

In the small community of Black Diamond, Washington, whose prosperity began in the coal mining boom of the 1880's, Labor Day celebrations gained little to no interest and there was nothing on record prior to 1922. With the onslaught of World War I, the labor Strike of 1921, and World War II, the Labor Day celebrations were put on hold until 1947, when a small group of town folk finally gave Labor Day its significance as a joyous holiday that coincided with the rest of the nation to be held on the first Monday in September, marking the end of Summer and the beginning of the school year. Parades and dances were the town's highlights, as were the baseball or soccer games and the selection of the Labor Day Queen and Royal Court.

But, with all the importance of events and the festivities that abounded, it was Black Diamond's focus on their children that stood out the most. Children

were honored in many ways during the Labor Day festivities and it became a tradition for the kids to expect such attention. Their prominence was shown with such Labor Day themes as "Is Kids" (1980), "Stand Tall and Help A Child" (1994), "Children of Today – Leaders of Tomorrow" (1996), and "Children – Community – Cooperation" (1997). During the holiday Parade, they were given an honorary position as their tricycles and bicycles, decorated and adorned for the occasion, became the exhibition of delight. Prizes were given for such spectacles when the parade reached the end of its journey at the ball field.

The games that often featured the children were Tug of War, Frog Jumping, Egg Throw, and the infamous Soapbox Derby down Lawson Hill. Free money was given to the children for their participation and in winning an event, as well as a quarter to each child under six years of age just for being there. The fun-loving Straw Scramble was a popular event where a large pile of straw held a good number of coins of various denominations, strewn randomly, and when given the word to go, the kids would scramble into the pile to find as much as they could until the last coin was retrieved.

From the memoirs of Mr. Lou Draghi, memories of Labor Day still capture his heart and produce a smile as he recalls the time as a child when from 1949 to 1959, him and his family would participate in this beloved annual celebration.

"...The excitement and anticipation of the days events caused adrenalin to flow upon awakening. I didn't dally. There was a rush to put on my good school clothes as supposed to my clothes I did my chores in. I attended to my bicycle which was partially decorated the night before. I would enter and ride my bike in the parade knowing there was money given for every entry." ...

"...The parade entrants would assemble at the foot of Lawson Hill according to their category. Excitement filled the air. One could hear the marching bands as they tuned their instruments. Drums beat, floats lined up, the entrants were directed with skill, and marchers found their place. All this added to the excitement. The horses were well groomed and decorated with fancy tack. They fidgeted as they waited for the start. The Queen and her Court were at the head of the parade as they prepared to begin. The ladies in charge of this assembly did a great job keeping things organized and prevented any calamity. A series a whistles signaled the start of the parade and we all waited for directions to follow the group in front of as they started to move. There was a lot of waiving and smiles. Family and friends clapped and cheered along the parade route as we traveled the main highway to the ball field. Once in the ball field the judging took place where each received their recognition and reward." ...

"...A pile of hay, with generous amounts [of] coin strewn
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within, caused a tumultuous wind storm for the little kids. The participants would immerse themselves in the large pile of hay searching for treasure. The hay would fly through the air, arms thrashing and flailing to discover shining objects of value. The rambunctious kids never wanting to give up their quest continued searching for the last coin.” ...

“...All during the course of the day, the Zumek brothers, Tom, Joe, and Frank handed out free ice cream filled Dixie Cups and orange pop...all you could want. These were great refreshments on a hot day. Towards the end of the celebrations Jules Dal Santo and others would drive a truck and trailer loaded to the brim with bags of peanuts with treats inside. These were given out freely to all and I know the wives worked tirelessly on this task of filling the bags.” ...²



Adorned bicycles of the 1947 Labor Day Parade.
(Photograph Courtesy of Arlene Guidetti Hendrickson,
BDHS #2007.020.)

Other festivities included children adorned in various types of costumes, such as a pioneer, a sailor, a pirate, a clown, a southern Bell, and some not so familiar home-made varieties, which were also judged and awarded. Races, such as the Three-Legged and Sack races, were held by age group and the prize was usually monetary, such as \$1.00 for 1st prize, \$.75 for 2nd prize, and \$.50 for 3rd prize. During all festivities and throughout the day, every child received what seemed like a never-ending flow of free popcorn, candy, ice cream, sodas, lemonade, and peanuts.

Perhaps the most enjoyable part of the Labor Day celebration was that the children could simply just be children. Catered by a parent or family member, children were positioned in places of prominence so that they could witness the rivalry of the other events as the holiday progressed throughout the day. They joined in the clapping and cheering as runners reached home plate during the baseball game, or Mom would teach them to dance as the joyous music moved the crowd around them. When they weren't watching other events, they could freely play, eat, and be with their families and friends as the jovial celebration rolled on-ward throughout the day. They met people they hadn't seen in a while, shared in the jokes and stories, and renewed family ties and friendships that would bind them throughout their lives from generation to generation. In the end, they would wander home with their family in tired anticipation of rest, perhaps even a little sunburned, but happy nonetheless. As they lay in their beds come nightfall, their dreams of the events would form a lasting sea of memories upon the synapses of their still growing minds that would linger for a lifetime of bliss in their quiet hearts.

Some final Labor Day thoughts --

“A mind always employed is always happy. This is the true secret, the grand recipe, for felicity.”

~Thomas Jefferson

“Take rest; a field that has rested gives a bountiful crop.” *~Ovid*

“God sells us all things at the price of labor.”

~Leonardo da Vinci

“Labor Day is a glorious holiday because your child will be going back to school the next day. It would have been called Independence Day, but that name was already taken.” *~Bill Dodds*

References:

1. The History of Labor Day, downloaded online on May 25, 2009, from <http://www.dol.gov/OPA/ABOUTDOL/LABORDAY.HTM>.
2. Lou Draghi, *Labor Days of the Past: A Memoir*.

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Arbor Day plantings were delayed due to the weather Mother Nature gave us. By the time April 24th arrived, the day Arbor Day is observed, planting the beautiful flowers began to be a reality.

Our heartfelt THANKS to Wayne Nachtsheim, owner of Linda's Flowers, who wintered over the Geraniums for us, and to Don Malgarini for preparing the flower beds and the plantings. Wow, a Jail's surroundings never look this GOOD!!

We hope Peter L. Vestnys, who built the jail in about 1910, is looking down with admiration and approval.

ON THE GROUNDS





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