



Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum

Printed Quarterly



October 2009

PICTURES OF THE PAST



MINE SAFETY APPARATUS AT THE 1909 A.Y.P. EXPOSITION

By JoAnne Matsumura

This 1917 example of the Draeger “Self Contained Breathing Apparatus” became the first safety apparatus demonstrated at the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. It also sparked the first University of Washington Safety building and courses in the use of this apparatus. The Pacific Coast Company contributed \$633.80 towards the project.

The history of breathing apparatus dates back at least to 1853 of a portable machine for a prize competition of the Belgian Academy of Science. In 1903 the Draeger apparatus appeared in Germany. The Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Co., of Pennsylvania, and the Anaconda Copper Mining Co., of Butte, Mont., was among the first companies in the United States to provide rescue apparatus at their mines, making these installations about 1907. The apparatus was designed to provide good air for at least 2 hours, “no matter how bad the surrounding air may be.” In 1912 the Bureau of Mines discontinued the helmet headpiece, yet allowed its limited use as late as 1923. Prior to 1923 Washington State mining codes required rescue apparatus to be a part of the equipment at mines of a certain size and character.

On July 1, 1910 Congress established the United States Bureau of Mines. They developed “seven railroad safety training cars” and equipped them with mine safety equipment. An example of this railroad safety training car was featured in the Society’s 1984 Calendar.

Read a related story in this issue from a report by D. C. Botting, 1910 State Mine Inspector of Coal Mines.

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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2	Information Page
3	Editor's Corner / Calendar
4, 5	President's Report
6	Secretary's Report / Donations
7	Guests / New Members
8	Election of Officers and Directors
9	Looking Back 30 Years Ago
10	Trinkets and Treasures / Thanks for Memories
11	Mine Rescue Station
12	Birthday Greetings
13, 14	In Memoriam
15	In The Museum / Membership Form
16	Cover Page

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

Museum Hours

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

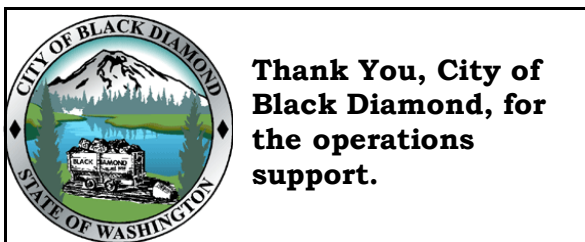
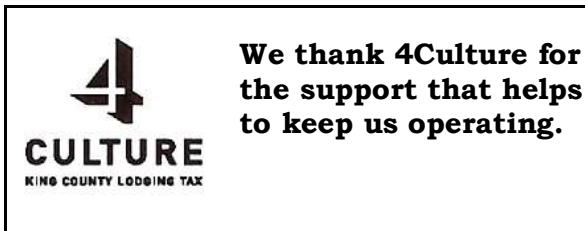
CONTACT INFORMATION

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



EDITOR'S CORNER



Hi, friends. Thank you to all who have submitted articles to this newsletter. I don't want anyone to forget, I couldn't do it without you.

I would like to have all material submitted by December 3rd for the next newsletter. Dee and I will be traveling to Arizona in mid December, so I will be getting the newsletter out a little earlier. We may stay with that format, so the newsletters can be sent out a couple of weeks before the first of the month instead of on the first.

Every time I pull out the *Black Diamond: Mining The Memories* book, I get caught up in the stories from the past. I have been brushing up on my guitar playing, and taking lessons. When I sit down to do some recreational playing, stories combine with the melodies, and just like that: a new song.

I have 3 songs as of this writing: Coalmine Eleven; Coal Miners' Wives; and Rope Rider. Even though my guitar playing is still in the developing stages, I will entertain at the Annual Membership Meeting on October 25th.

My fascination with history is shared with my friend Ken Jensen. Ken has been getting more involved with our museum over the past couple of years, and has offered to submit articles for the newsletter. With his talent for writing, and love for local history, I am pleased that he has agreed to join the team.

Keep those cards and letters coming!

Steve

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

Steve Israel will entertain us with music & singing, which will include songs he has written about Black Diamond, followed by Gomer Evans, who will speak about his experiences of when he was mayor of Black Diamond.

Officers and Directors will be elected at this meeting.

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

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

Other events will be posted on the website if something comes up before the next newsletter. Usually something comes up!

WE GET LETTERS!

Cathy Bradley writes: "We were so thrilled with the Black Diamond Museum and all the information we were able to get. Thanks again for taking the time for us, and for having such a terrific museum!"

Becky Fosnacht writes: "We are so grateful to you for all the help you have given us with Frank's family research. Your museum and historical society are the best and deserve support."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Keith Watson



The Little Yellow Locomotive has arrived at the Museum. It is a World War II locomotive that was manufactured for the U.S. Army in 1943 by the Plymouth Locomotive Works that was located in

Plymouth, Ohio. It was put in surplus status by the Army and used by the Seattle Steel Casting Company until 1985 when it was given to the Northwest Railway Museum in Snoqualmie.

This type of locomotive, MLW-835, was used in small mines, limber mills, and other industrial businesses. It is one of over 7500 small locomotives that the Plymouth Locomotive Works manufactured. It weighs just over 50,000 pounds and is a diesel mechanical locomotive.

Obtained by the Black Diamond Historical Society, in September, from the Northwest Railway Museum, for cosmetic restoration and display as a railroad artifact from World War II. After restoration we plan to hook it to our caboose and have it open so people can enter the cab and possibly ring the bell, toot the horn, light up the lights and dream of being railroad engineers.

The question has been asked: "What does this artifact have to do with Black Diamond?" A very good question – Black Diamond and the coal mines were served by railroads since 1885; from narrow gauge (rails 36 inches apart) locomotives and rolling stock to standard gauge locomotives and rolling stock. The name of the railroad that served Black Diamond was the Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad and was owned by the Oregon Improvement Company. That company went into receivership in 1895 and was reorganized in 1897 as the Pacific Coast Company. The name of the railroad then changed to the Pacific Coast Railroad. The railroad served Maple Valley, Hobart, Taylor, Black Diamond, Kummer, and Franklin in our area for many years. The Pacific Coast Railroad was acquired by the Great Northern Railway Company in 1951. This company decided to keep the name of the railroad as the Pacific

Coast Railroad. Shortly after being acquired, the last steam locomotive was retired and the railroad used diesel electric locomotives into the 1970's. It's our belief the last train service was halted in 1975. The only rolling stock left from that railroad is owned by the Northwest Railway Museum and is a 1918 Steel Drop Bottom Gondola coal hauling car. So now we have a Red Caboose and a Little Yellow Locomotive that represents the rail service Black Diamond had in the past. It would be nice if we could dedicate the Little Yellow Locomotive as a Memorial to the people who were pioneers in Black Diamond as coal miners, railroad workers, loggers, farmers, and townspeople.

Right now the Locomotive looks like a rust bucket and it's predominately yellow with black undercarriage. It is on the tracks in front of the Museum with a protective fence around it for safety. We have formed a committee to overview what steps we will be taking to cosmetically restore the locomotive. We are looking for members and nonmembers who would like to share their knowledge and elbow grease to make this locomotive a show piece. There is a lot to do in the interior of the cab as well as the exterior. We need volunteers with experience in sand or soda blasting, paint & rust removal, electrical wiring, wood work (replacing the cab's floor), spray painting, metal working, welding, railroad knowledge, and good common sense. We also will need to acquire a railroad bell, whistle, and lights. If you know anybody who would be interested please have them contact:

Keith Watson at 360-886-0778 or e-mail kcwdoc@comcast.net.

Some of the historical information in this letter was derived from the book "Ships and Narrow Gauge Rails – The Story of the Pacific Coast Company" by Gerald M. Best.

This story would not be complete if we didn't give credit to **Conrad "Coke" Roberts** who had a dream and a vision about having a locomotive here at the museum for us and future generations to enjoy. He is the head of the committee to acquire the locomotive and he never gave up on this dream. Coke is the Chairman of the Education and Outreach committee for the BDHS and has given the Historical Society endless hours of presentations to all ages of attendees who applaud his way of giving them the story of Black Diamond. The help from **Bill Bremmeyer** was essential to moving the locomotive from Snoqualmie to Black Diamond. He provided the low boy truck and drove 60 mile per hours down

highway 18 (probably the fastest this locomotive has ever gone) on the way to the final destination on the railroad tracks in front of the museum. Thank you Bill. We also thank **Imhoff Contractors and Crane Service** for their help and complete mastery of lifting and placing this 25 ton locomotive in place. **Richard Anderson, Executive Director of the Northwest Railway Museum**, and his organization also deserve credit for their immense help through the process. The City of Black Diamond gets a big thank you from us for helping us at the Museum site and with traffic direction – Thank you one and all. It was a fantastic and professional closely timed event. if you see any of these folks, please thank them for their good work.

Emergency Siren install

Gomer Evans is responsible for the great sound we heard from the siren after it was completely restored. He ran the siren to start our Labor Day Parade and it was good, so good! Gomer went miles and miles and spent hours and hours to make sure that the siren worked. We just can't thank him enough and if you see him, tell him so. We also thank people who were instrumental in helping get the siren project to become a reality. People like; **Bill Bremmeyer, Harry Berry, Bill Kombol, Rand Harris, Steve Paulshack, Jackie Hope, Don Malgarini, Andy Williamson**, and others who will remain unlisted per their request. The SOUND was so worth it. The siren was originally located on a pole and then on top of the Confectionary building across the street from the Museum. It was used as an emergency siren for coal mine accidents and fire volunteer response. **Evan Morris and his family** donated the siren and we are very thankful and happy that they saved it for future generations.

BOARDWALK SURPRISE

The Museum has a wood freight platform that runs the full length of the depot and was there so people could board the train and use the freight wagons to haul the freight to and from the train. We call it the boardwalk and it was installed 30 some years ago. The boards are 3 inches thick, rough sawed and various widths and lengths. Some of the boards were showing their age and we were using traffic cones to warn people of the dangerous rotten spots that might make people stumble.

One Saturday morning **JoAnne Matsumura** came to open the Museum, as a docent, and found a wonderful surprise. All of the rotten boards had been replaced.

Who did this and how did they do it without being discovered? A mystery! First clue, someone saw a **Bill Bremmeyer Logging Company** truck at the Museum on the previous Friday. Just like Bill to step in and fix a problem. I don't know all the specifics but we have learned a firm in Everett, WA. named **BUSE Timber & Sales Inc.** donated the lumber and somehow Bill Bremmeyer managed to install them with the great results of a repaired boardwalk that is now safe. **Thank you Bill and the BUSE Timber & Sales Inc.** – what a wonderful surprise you have given the Black Diamond Historical Society. We are so grateful to all the volunteers who keep us going and on the right track.

Thanks again! Keith



Gomer Evans and Coke Roberts



The Siren, New Boards on the Boardwalk, and the Locomotive

SECRETARY REPORT

By Dee Israel

ARCHIVES: - Recently a BDHS member made a donation designated for the archive department. This was used towards the purchase of 2 mannequins.

The emergency siren that was donated by the Evan Morris family has been installed and was used to start the Labor Day Parade.

The newest artifact at the Museum is a train engine. There is a lot of work to be done on it to restore it to as close to its original look as possible. Gomer Evans will chair the committee, with Coke Roberts as Co-Chair for getting this accomplished.

An old, original miners house that is located in Black Diamond has been offered to the Historical Society. The Society voted to conduct a feasibility study with the City to determine if this is a project that we will be able to handle.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH: We had a Summer Program for kids at the museum on Thursdays from 10:00 to 10:30 am, starting June 4, 2009 thru August 27, 2009. There were a lot of children that attended and they really seemed to enjoy these programs. We hope to do it again next year.

FACILITIES & GROUNDS: The trees on the Railroad Avenue side of the property have grown so much that they have become a traffic and pedestrian safety hazard, so the Board has voted to remove them.

See article elsewhere in this newsletter regarding the repair of the boardwalk.

FRANKLIN TOUR: Chair Don Mason – a sign-up sheet for the next Franklin tour is at the Museums front desk. A specific date has not yet been set.

PROGRAMS: – FAMILY RESOURCE NIGHT on August 26th had a lot of interest in the pictures of the old school buildings. Students who were there and had toured the museum this year said hello and thanks to the BDHS.

LABOR DAY AT THE MUSEUM on Sept 7th was very well attended even though our ad did not make it in the program. Leih Mulvihill advised President Watson that the Ad that we furnished was hidden behind another ad in her software. She apologized to him in person and publicly at the Labor Day event on Sunday Sept. 6th.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: We are receiving many compliments on our new brochure. How do you like it?



DONATIONS

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

MEMORIAL DONATIONS IN MEMORY of:

Charlene Birkliid, Taff Roofing, Inc.

Lee Keeney, by Arlene Parkin.

James Wiley Norman, by Jeanne Norman.

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS BY:

Mrs. Chris Pieren

Rainier Classic Chevy Club

Rebecca Teeters

R. Marie Theilken

Jerold & Gloria Thompson

Seattle Welsh Women's Club

Julia Young W/matching by Bank of America

ARCHIVE PRESERVATION FUND BY:

Cathy Bradley

Shirley Mead

VOLUNTEERS LUNCH FUND BY:

Michael & Betty Manieri

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: Doc Botts



During the month of **June 2009 we had 447 guests, July 2009 we had 342 guests and August 2009 we had 414 guests.** Making a 3-month total of **1203 guests** to the Museum. There were visitors from **15 States:** Arizona, Colorado, California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, and here in Washington. There were also people visiting from other places, such as England, Germany, Italy and South Africa.

REMARKS MADE BY OUR GUESTS

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

Awesome-Thank you, Great to come home, Amazing & strangely linked, Thanks for this wonderful museum-It's a real gem, This really took me back to my early years, Wonderful display, Builder of great memories, Wonderful-Especially liked the phone switch board, I really liked the part about the canary in the mine, Neat place-Great display's, Awesometasic, Thanks for keeping all this together, Docent JoAnne was very helpful, Learned a lot-We'll be back again, A class act, Great museum-Keep up the good work, Great tour guide, Enjoyed the tour, Best museum ever, Keep it up, Very well done-I shall return, Enjoyed the info & museum, Gracias, I loved it, It is so great to have all this history, One of the best, Absolutely fascinating, I like this place, Very nice collection, How wonderful-Many happy memories, Collected with love-Great, Thanks for the tour, Great place, Nicest place I've been to for history!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Black Diamond Historical Society now has a total of 321 memberships. We are pleased to announce that during this past quarter we have acquired the following new memberships:

Cathy Bradley
Mary Jo Carlson
Tom & Joyce Erath
David & Amy George family
H. Marc Lewis
Jennifer Lewis
Dr. Tracy Bradley Maples
Ress Benson
Margaret Bourguine
Beverly Braden
Kimberly Brown
Rebecca Fosnacht
Daniel Hall
Donna Harmon
Gloria Thompson
Sachiyo Williams
Terry Williams
BD Lawson Partners LP
Mary Byron
Priscilla Hill

(I apologize for misspelling a name in the welcome list in the last newsletter. We welcome Sherry Brandsma, not Sherry Bandsmen.)

I would also like to thank the following businesses that help support the Black Diamond Historical Society by becoming members. We ask you (our members to return the favor by supporting their business when ever you can.:

Allen County Public Library
Black Diamond Bakery
Black Diamond Elementary School
BD Lawson Partners LP
BD Village Partners LP
Mama Passarelli's Dinner House
Palmer Coking Coal Company
Southport Land & Commercial Co.
Taff Roofing, Inc.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**Be sure to attend the Annual Membership Meeting:
October 25, 2009 at 1:30 P.M.**

Included in this meeting is election of Officers and Directors for the Black Diamond Historical Society Board for the term of November 1, 2009 through October 31, 2011. The Board is comprised of twelve (12), which includes the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and eight (8) Directors/Trustees. The following twelve (13) people have been nominated:

President – Keith Watson

Vice President – Don Malgarini

Secretary – Dee Israel

Treasurer – Clayton Mead

(You will vote for only 8 of the following Director/Trustee nominees)

Director/Trustee – Harry Berry

Director/Trustee – Don Botts

Director/Trustee – Howard Botts

Director/Trustee – Gomer Evans

Director/Trustee – Ken Jensen

Director/Trustee – Don Mason

Director/Trustee – JoAnne Matsumura

Director/Trustee – Anna Morris

Director/Trustee – Coke Roberts

Per our By-Laws, if you or someone you know would like to be in a position on the Board, nominations from the floor will be allowed (with prior approval of the nominee).

On Election Day, each BDHS member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote. Only one representative of a business membership may vote for the company. If that person is also an individual member he/she may only vote once.

For those of you who are unable to attend, an absentee ballot may be obtained by requesting one from the Museum (by phone (360-886-2142), US Mail (P.O. Box 232, Black Diamond, WA 98010) or e-mail, (museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org). **Absentee ballots must be received at the museum before the election on October 25, 2009, to be counted.** So don't delay.

You don't have to run for office to be a big help around the Museum. There are many jobs that we need help with from time to time, such as painting, carpentry, minor electrical repairs, window washing, labeling newsletters, dusting, typing, and filing.

Stick around for food and fun!



LOOKING BACK: THIRTY YEARS AGO

By JoAnne Matsumura



The depot museum had not yet opened in October 1979, having spent five years in the restoration. Ann Steiert sent out a call that still stands today---“All members should be aware of and see that historical items are not destroyed or lost to us forever. We wait with open arm to receive mementos, photographs, printed material, and the list goes on and on.”

The Thursday Crew had a crowd of “5 men showed up” to volunteer! The ‘regulars’ were Carl Steiert, Grant Griffin-wiring the building, Ted Barner, Tom Maks, and Frank Guidetti.

The Society held their first Christmas Open House on December 9th, 1979, inviting “all to come and share a fellowship which the coming of Christmas means.”

Those who have passed on but are not forgotten are: Frank Donckers and Bertha Habenicht.

The Stationmaster’s Bay was completed, and the porch overhang was re-shingled. Wooden gutters were made in Auburn, delivered by **TRM Wood Products**, and installed by The Thursday Crew. The Society received some wooden framed windows donated by Joe Wilkening, and were installed in the entrance area of the Museum. Robert Allen donated the red paint that the “old-timers” remember the depot as being “definitely Red.” “I can hardly wait to see it in all its glory painted Red!!” Ann stated.

Funds from the office of Past County Executive John Spellman’s office were enough to purchase a “wood/coal burning Parlour stove” and special typewriter for exhibit signs.

The Society’s historic Calendars in 1979 with the wonderful historic photographs and for the fifth year were a financial success providing continual funds in the restoration of the depot/museum.

Collections continued to arrive, and to the surprise of all, a solid brass steam whistle was found at Boots Tavern by Doug and Lou Isman, the new owners, and was donated by Alford McNamars. Sophie Holly donated a depot style bench, and several High School newspapers, the “Sparkler”, were donated by Elsie Thompson Marchetti.

By September 1, 1979 all children through the 6th grade were to be immunized in Washington, as signed into law by Governor Ray on May 2, 1979.

The Labor Day Parade went on as scheduled, the Society winning a trophy for their parade entry, but the remainder of the celebration was cancelled due to the heavy rains.

Miss Judy Elder was a finalist in the 1979 Miss Washington National Teenager Pageant.

Terry Gouchenour, Shanna Bowen and Lynn Bukosky of Black Diamond were top winners in the Cystic Fibrosis contest held in October of 1979.

The Old Confectionery Art Gallery featured many Puget Sound area professional artists during 1979. There were exhibits on the works of watercolor artists, print makers, embossing by Mary McDowell, metal sculptures, fine jewelry, woven textiles, paintings of barns, “Fibre Artisans”, and handcrafts during their annual Holiday show. The artists featured had won many honors for their artworks in local, regional and national competitions.

THE TINY CABIN

A social worker from a big City in Massachusetts recently transferred to the Mountains of North Carolina and Georgia and was on the first tour of her new territory when she came upon the tiniest cabin she had ever seen in her life.

Intrigued, she went up and knocked on the door. “Anybody home?” she asked. “Yep,” came a kid’s voice through the door.

“Is your father there?” asked the social worker. “Pa? nope, he left afore Ma came in,” said the kid.

“Well, is your mother there?” persisted the social worker. “Ma? Nope, she left just afore I got here,” said the kid.

“But,” protested the social worker, “are you never together as a family?”

“Sure, but not here,” said the kid through the door. “This is the Out House!”

(Government workers are so smart)

🔑 TRINKETS & TREASURES:

ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS

By JoAnne Matsumura, Archivist

October is Archives Month and we take this opportunity to thank our many donors with appreciation for their generosity, and to share with you their contributions.

Financial: We appreciate a number of donors for their financial support to the Archives Preservation Fund. With grateful thanks to Cathy Bradley, Debra Krause, Shirley Mead, Marsha Mott, and Charles & Nora Whisenant.

Artifacts: With sincere thanks to Larry & Alice Baird for Diamond Stage tickets, to Marlene Bortelson for a display cabinet, to Howard & Dorothy Botts for a “FYR-FYTER” extinguisher, to K. Di Nicola for garments from the estate of Mrs. Herrin, to Lois Thomas Estby for award plaques, to Rand Harris for a Monroe adding machine, to Don Malgarini for a tourist camera, to the Mead Family for a set of pewter cocktail forks, Diamond Stage ruler, and various toys, to Suzie Morganti for a lovely oval gold framed picture of the Morganti Family, to Seth O’Hare for the miners ID tag of Al Donati, to Arline Parkin for ladies hats from the estate of Alma Malatesta, to Palmer Coking Coal Co., for a chamber pot, to Roger Parry for a large travel trunk from the estate of Richard Parry, to Jesse Malgarini Ponko for tokens, to Conrad Roberts for his wife’s fur coat & stole, to Douglas Sutton for a VIBRO-SHAVE razor, to Dave Temby for a 1937 DuPont Explosive box, to Jack Thompson for an early era scale and weight, to Beth Botts Van Buskirk for her exquisite handcrafted Welsh Love Spoon, to Carol Watkins for pillowcases, and to all others for small Trinkets & Treasures tucked in among the donations. They include Carol Watkins, and Julia Young.

Other: Thank you also to our members and other friends of the Society who have donated articles, booklets, books, clippings, decorations, documents, picture frames, photocopies, photographs, prints, stories, supplies, and also to those

who provided repository holdings information. They include; Howard & Dorothy Botts, Dennis Boxx, James Carey, Jackie Cedarholm, Carolyn Christopher, Althea Petchnick Clark, Leo Dal Santo, Alice Darthez, Henry DeLauro, Gomer Evans, Paul Hager, Daniel Hall, Bob Hannus, Dee Israel, Don Mason, The Mead family, Bruce McRae, Palmer Coking Coal Co., Janice Golds-Berry Ranton, Southeast Glass Inc., Edward Stanley, Lynnett Stevenson, Bob Thompson, and Judy Petchnick Warwick.

🌸 THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES 🌸

Gone but not forgotten

By JoAnne Matsumura



🌸 Sharon Eileen Averill
September 19, 1938 – August 7, 2009
Resident of Black Diamond, 43 years

🌸 Carol Cairns
1948 – August 9, 2009
Black Diamond School Alumni

🌸 Leo Doran Gregorich, Jr.
November 17, 1911 – May 16, 2009
Former resident of Selleck

🌸 Lee L. Keeney
April 27, 1921 – July 1, 2009
Husband of Ruby Favro Keeney

🌸 Tom Pfaeffle
July 17, 2009
The Tank, a recording studio

🌸 Clarence Harold Potts
May 12, 1919 - June 27, 2009
Served on St. Barbara’s Parish Council
and Black Diamond Senior Citizens
Board



MINE RESCUE STATION AT THE 1909 A.Y.P. EXPOSITION

By JoAnne Matsumura

The United States Geological Survey exhibited mine rescue apparatus and demonstrated its use. Many men tried the apparatus, wearing it in an airtight room filled with poisonous gases.

Just before the Exposition was scheduled to close in October 1909 there was an explosion in one of the mines operated by the Northwestern Improvement Company, at Roslyn, Washington. For the first time in the history of the northwest the apparatus was “demonstrated beyond any question of doubt that the apparatus was almost invaluable for use after a mine explosion.”

The coal mine operators at once requested the United States Geological Survey to establish a mine rescue station at Seattle, and to training mine employees in the use of the apparatus. Their request resulted in the establishment of a station on the campus of the University of Washington. Special arrangements were made and state mine inspector, Mr. D. C. Botting, was put in charge to “make all assessments and to superintend the work of getting the building in shape.”

The Philippine exhibit building was divided by suitable partitions for the various rooms needed that also included an airtight training room. The training room was fitted with a mine car, track, walls to represent mine “stoppings”, and other paraphernalia that would resemble as nearly as possible, the interior of a mine. The Station opened March 12, 1910.

Employees sent by their employers paid them \$5.00 per day to take the training. The training took about 2 weeks, and could take up to five hours work daily in the smoke room that had been filled with smoke and poisonous gases. In addition to this work there were drills with the apparatus, attending lectures, library studies, reports and discussions.

The station could handle only eight students at one time. They were given certificates of competency in the use of the apparatus. In the December 31, 1910 report, D. C. Botting stated that sixty students had been enrolled for the course, with forty-six having been issued certificates; the remaining had not yet finished the course, although some had not ‘passed’ the

course. Washington had more government certified men than any other state in the Union, the report stated.

The thirty-one Draeger apparatus listed being used were in Roslyn, Ravensdale, Tacoma, Black Diamond, New Castle, Burnett, Franklin, Taylor, and Carbonado, all using the 1911 model.

Mr. D. C. Botting stated, “It is very gratifying that so many of the Washington operators have already equipped their mines with these machines, and they deserve the highest commendation because they have not waited for a law compelling them to do so.”

By 1927 the ‘rescue station’ became the offices and laboratory of the Northwest Experiment Station, and in June 1927 the building was dedicated, and the training program then ended.

In 1928 the Bureau of Mines Representative, Mr. John Schoening, stated “there was a decline in classes and training will now be held in the “camps” for First Aid and Rescue Training.”



NOTE

Scuba divers use scuba gear to breathe under water. Scuba is an acronym for Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus. The first commercially successful scuba sets were the Aqualung open-circuit units developed by Emile Gagnan and Jacques-Yves Cousteau in 1942, in which compressed gas (usually air) is inhaled from a tank and then exhaled into the water, and the descendants of these systems are still the most popular units today.

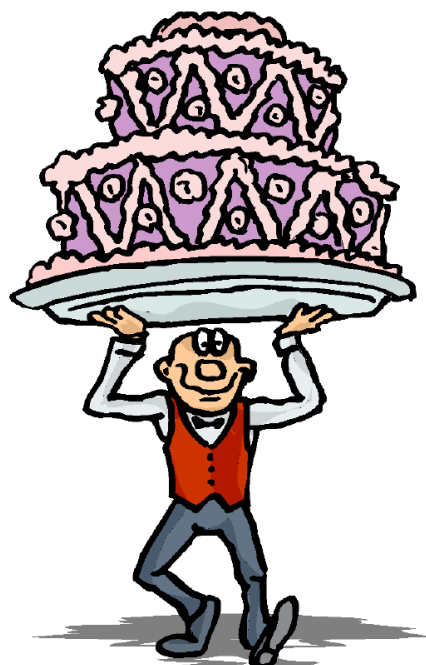
This technology stemmed from the mine rescue apparatus.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO SOCIETY MEMBERS FOR THIS QUARTER OF THE CALENDAR:

(If your birthday is this quarter & you don't find your name on this list, it's because we don't have the date. Let us know when it is so it can be included next time.)

- 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.08 Kim Palmer
- Oct.11 Nora Whisenant
- Oct.13 Dan Dal Santo
- Oct.13 Randy Roberts
- Oct.14 Scott Peterson
- Oct.18 Peggy Witman
- Oct. 19 Carmel Shaver Camerini
- Oct. 20 Carol Wieltschnig
- Oct. 21 Maureen Guidetti
- Oct. 22 John Lombardini
- Oct. 23 Ruth Brown Susnar
- Oct. 26 Evelyn Dal Santo
- Oct. 26 Ken Jensen
- Oct. 26 Fonda Ranta Willson Zimmerman
- Oct. 27 Jeanne Riggs
- Oct. 30 Nancy Cross Baltazor
- Oct. 31 Marian Albaugh Short
- Nov.03 Kimberly Brown
- Nov.04 Ress Benson
- Nov.04 Louis Traverso
- Nov.04 Paula Perkins
- Nov.05 William G. Bisyak
- Nov.05 Rose Vetter
- Nov.05 Judy Petchnick Warwick
- Nov.08 Rosemary Rogers Konoske-Bigelow
- Nov.08 Jannelle Noller
- Nov.10 Marylou Carl Toth
- Nov.12 Virginia R. Mills Tracy
- Nov.14 Nancy Dodge Mead
- Nov.14 Thomas Wieltschnig
- Nov.16 Dave Hester
- Nov.20 Shirley J. Mead
- Nov.20 Joe Dal Santo

- Nov.21 Miriam DelDuca Adlum
- Nov.21 Janice Goldsberry Ranton
- Nov.23 Dorothy Franz Corlett
- Nov.25 Mickie Greenside
- Nov.25 Bill Williams
- Nov.30 Karl Berg
- Dec.01 Suzie Morganti
- Dec.01 Steve Thompson
- Dec.06 Betty Franz Uhrig
- Dec.07 Robert Morgan Smith
- Dec.11 Loriann Taff
- Dec.12 Marie Merlini Freeman
- Dec.12 Sandra Zumek Sonsteng
- Dec.13 Muriel Botts Waldo
- Dec.14 Leih Mulvihill
- Dec.16 Betty Merryfield
- Dec.19 Barry Kombol
- Dec.23 Christine E. Mead
- Dec.25 Mary Malgarini Kennedy
- Dec.26 Ryan Kitz
- Dec.27 Anne Remshe Thorsett
- Dec.27 Kenneth E. Williams
- Dec.28 Mary Peterson
- Dec.30 Maxine Niles Gamba
- Dec.30 Jack Thompson
- Dec.30 Joe Zumek
- Dec.31 Donald J. Greggs
- Dec.31 Paula Botts Ordonez



✿ **IN MEMORIAM** ✿

Gone but not forgotten

By JoAnne Matsumura

✿ **Joan E. Bryant**, Lifetime Member and wife of Russell Bryant, passed away July 6, 2009 in Seattle. She was born July 26, 1950 to Orvil & Elizabeth Gustafson Olson.

Joan is survived by her husband Russell, daughters; Brea Hilfer and Brittany Csch, her mother Betty Olson, brothers Stanley, Wendel and Grady Olson, sisters; Janice Kecki, Julianne and Joyce Olson, along with three grandchildren.

✿ **Iorwerth William Davies**, Lifetime Member, son of Alice Sloan Davies and father of Patsy Johnson passed away on September 11, 2009. He would have been 92 years young on September 19th.



Ior, as he was known, was born to Evan & Alice Sloan Davies on September 19, 1917. He lived a long and happy life filled with zest and passion. He became an entrepreneur at age twelve when he traded fourteen rabbits for his first love – a Ford Model A. Ior is a graduate of the Black Diamond High School Class of 1935.

While living in Black Diamond, he worked as a projectionist in the Black Diamond movie theater, drove a coal truck for the coal company and transported coal miners on the Black Diamond Stage to the mines. He also helped his mother Alice Davies who owned the “Confectionery”.

During the war years he proudly served in the US Navy as an airplane mechanic. Upon returning home he went to work as the parts manager for Collins Ford. During this time Doris Olson Smith, a young widow, came to the dealership looking for a hubcap for her car and had her young daughter, Patsy with her. Ior delivered the hubcap free of charge and three months later they were married. They later had son Scott to complete their family.

Ior remained in auto sales throughout his career, working in Enumclaw and Auburn, and serving his faith at the Trinity Lutheran Church.

He enjoyed golfing, traveling, and anything to do with cars. He had been known to “sell” a steering wheel as a package deal with a car.

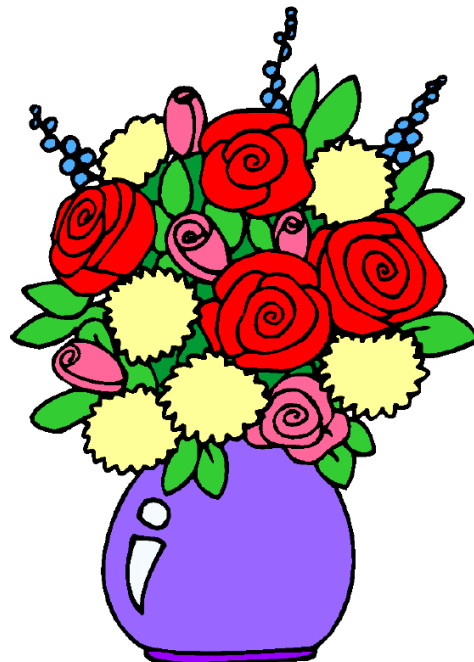
His wife Doris met an untimely death and some time later he married Pat Zeiler of The Dalles, Oregon and remained there until his death.

Ior loved Black Diamond and always looked forward to talking about it with anyone who would listen. The visits to the Black Diamond Museum were wonderful occasions for him. He enjoyed reminiscing with the staff and patrons. Ior was especially pleased with the Alice Davies Confectionery exhibit in the museum and stated, “Thank you for giving her a place in the Museum. She was an outstanding and special lady.” He had a great time sharing his 90th birthday with friends and family at the Black Diamond Bakery.

His daughter, Patsy Johnson and her husband David, son Scott Davies and wife Kathy, grandchildren, Kelsey, Ali, Colby and Zachary, and his great-granddaughter, Lila, survive Ior.

A memorial service will be held in Enumclaw in the latter part of October with a get together at the Black Diamond Bakery and the Black Diamond Museum. No date has been set.

✿ **Michael Manieri**, husband of Betty Malgarini Manieri passed away on September 12, 2009. More information will be in a future publication.



People over 50 should be dead.

Here's why. According to today's regulators and bureaucrats, those of us who were kids in the 40's, 50's, 60's, and maybe even the early 70's probably shouldn't have survived.

Our baby cribs were covered with brightly colored, lead-based paint.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets! (Not to mention the risks we took hitchhiking.)

As children, we would ride in cars with no seatbelts or airbags. Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat. We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. HORRORS!!

We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, and we drank soda pop with sugar in it, but we were never overweight because we were always outside playing. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle! And no one actually died from this!

We would spend hours building go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we needed brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were home before dark. No one was able to reach us all day. NO CELL PHONES!! Unthinkable!

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo, X-Boxes, no video games at all! No 99 channel cable TV, no Internet chat rooms. We didn't have DVD movies, surround sound, or text messaging. We had friends! And we went outside and found them!

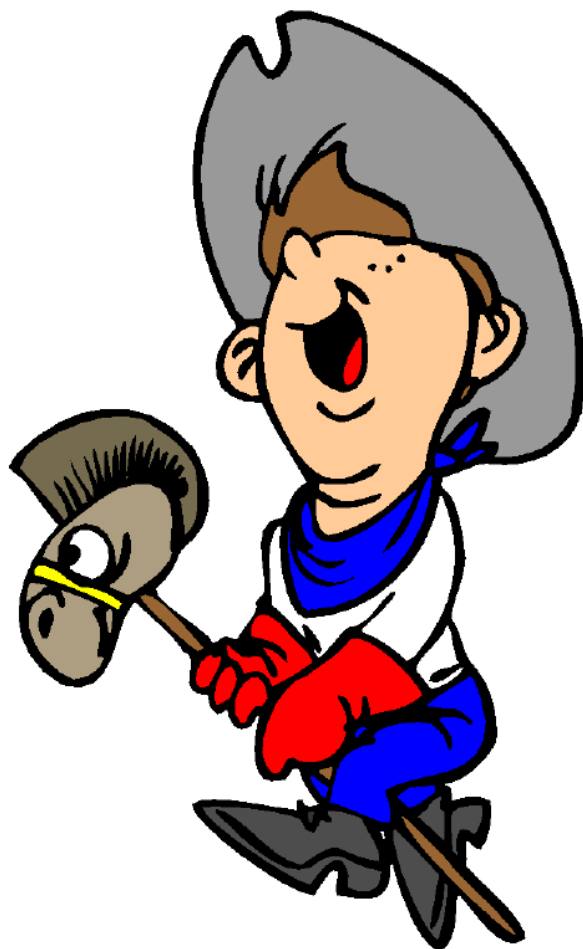
We played dodge ball, and sometimes the ball would really hurt. We fell out of trees, got cut and broke bones and teeth, and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. They were accidents! No one was to blame but us. Remember accidents?

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't, had to learn to deal with disappointment. Some students weren't as smart as others, so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. Horrors! Tests were not adjusted for any reason.

Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected.

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever! The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it 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 \$ _____

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Renewal

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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: _____

IN THE MUSEUM

Relating to our article about mine rescue equipment, we have a very nice display of mine rescue equipment of our own!

Come in and look at the display case right next to Hard Hat Harry.

I'm quite sure he will welcome your company.





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Membership due date is on your label.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
GATHERING**
1:30 PM, Sunday October 25,
At the Museum

Join us for:
Election of Officers and Directors
Food and Fun
Music and Stories of the Past

**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!