

❖ B U L L E T I N ❖

Cumberland Now & Then

Time moves slowly across the river in Cumberland

TAKE A DRIVE FROM BLACK DIAMOND, up Lawson Hill and past Lake 12, past Franklin and over the one-lane bridge, past the Green River Gorge Resort and up toward the foothills to the southeast...

At last you arrive at the corner of SE 352nd Street and the Veazie-Cumberland

Road. An old rusted Pepsi sign marks the spot that—if it were in better condition—would sure to be coveted by those guys from *American Pickers*.

Welcome to Cumberland. Named in 1893 by **F.X.**

Schriner after Pennsylvania's coal-rich Cumberland Valley, this coal mining and logging town—like parts of Black Diamond and Ravensdale—looks much as it did a century ago. Just 7 miles separate Cumberland and Black Diamond and yet



its history is quite different.

For starters, unlike Black Diamond, Ravensdale, or even Selleck, Cumberland was not a company town dominated by one primary employer. “There were dozens of mines here at one time,” **Frank Tost**, a long-time resident of Cumberland, told the *Enumclaw Courier* in 1985. “They included the Hyde Mine and Bayne Carbon

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You know you've reached Cumberland when you see this sign on the Veazie-Cumberland Road. (Photo: Robert Dobson)



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.

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Black Diamond Bulletin invites articles for publication. Articles may be edited for style, length, and clarity. Please contact the editor if you wish to submit an article. BlackDiamondHistory@comcast.net

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HOURS

Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday, 12 to 3 p.m. (winter);
12 to 4 p.m. (summer)

Beyond our backyard

A MESSAGE from the EDITOR



KEN JENSEN

Cumberland? What's Cumberland got to do with Black Diamond? It's over on the "other side" of river, for goodness sake!

If that's what you're thinking, I'm way ahead of you.

As you may recall, the general aim of the society is to discover, preserve, and disseminate knowledge about the history of Black Diamond and the surrounding towns of Ravensdale, Selleck, Kangley, Elkcoal, Danville, Bayne, Cumberland, Palmer, Navy, Kummer, Franklin, Krain, and Lawson.

So consider this your dose of Cumberland with a dash of Navy to boot. It won't hurt. Promise.

As we found out during our visits to Cumberland, its history is different, even if it was engaged in the same industries as Black Diamond: coal mining and logging. And I don't mean that in a bad way. Just that the river does seem to create a natural barrier today as it did in the past.

My Now & Then article is really just a snack from the smorgasbord that Cumberland has to offer. Trust me—we plan to go back for seconds soon. And Archivist JoAnne Matsumura's article on Cumberland schoolteacher Iva Buchanan provides insight into the early twentieth-century isolation of the town.

This issue also gives us the opportunity to show off a few of the Cumberland artifacts we have on display at the museum: the Cumberland School desk and Ernie Seliger's saw blade being two. And it allows us to showcase the talents of "official" society photographer, Bob Dobson, too.

Several people have commented about all the great photos in the Summer 2011 issue. If I counted correctly, a whopping 19 of them were Bob's. This issue is no different as Bob's made at least three trips to Cumberland to shoot photos for the society. It's just too bad that we only have so little room to display them here.

If you want to get a look at Bob, check out the shot he missed. On the next page, Bob's right in the center frame with his camera poised, just on the wrong side of a waving Keith Watson!

I hope you'll enjoy this issue of the Cumberland ... ahem, Black Diamond Bulletin. If you have stories to share about Cumberland, we're all ears.

- Ken

BlackDiamondHistory@comcast.net

Errata

The photo on page 10 of the Summer 2011 issue incorrectly identified the miners as Louis Draghi, Sr. and Louis Draghi, Jr. In reality it was of Louis Draghi, Sr. on the left and John Maks on the right. Also on page 16, the adult on the right is Jim Hawthorne, not Tom Hawthorne. And the two boys on the far right of the float are Roy Darby, Jr. and Rick Darby.

Letter to the editor

My wife, who was a life member of the Black Diamond Historical Society and an enthusiastic history buff, passed away recently. She was fascinated by the history and beauty of the area surrounding the little town of Black Diamond in which I was born. As a tribute to her, I am enclosing my personal check for a Life Membership in my own name: **Robert P. Sherwood.**

I was born in 1932, delivered at home with the assistance of **H.L. Botts, M.D.** As the son of **James “Scotty” Sherwood**, a coal miner, and **Zina Petersen**, a housewife, I came on the scene at a very difficult period. The country was in the depths of a severe depression. Miners were on reduced working hours, a plan designed to help families by keeping more men on the payroll. The consequence of those difficult economic times was that my parents were not financially able to pay Dr. Botts for his services.

A short time after my birth we moved from the area and my father passed away. My mother, after a long and frantic search, finally found work in teaching school in a small coal mining town in central Utah.

In 1949, my mother, sister, and I were in Seattle on our way to visit relatives in Alaska. Searching through the telephone directory, Mother found a listing for Dr. Botts. She called and made an appointment for us to see him in his office. We were invited into the doctor’s office and seated.

“Well, Mrs. Sherwood,” the doctor began. “What can I do for you?”

Mother began by pointing to me, “You delivered this young man seventeen years ago in Black Diamond. At that time we were so poor we couldn’t pay you for your services.

“I know it’s been a long time, but the matter has remained on my mind all those years. Could you tell me what we owe, with interest?”

“Those were difficult times for everyone, Mrs. Sherwood. Those charges have been forgiven and forgotten.” Besides, the doctor continued, “I have no idea what the bill was for my services.”

“I remember exactly what the bill was,” Mother replied. “May I add interest and write you a check?”

“Mrs. Sherwood, if you insist on

paying, just write the check for the amount you remember. But it is not necessary.”

While Mother was writing the check, Dr. Botts turned his attention to us children.

“I hope you children are paying attention to what your mother is doing,” he said. “By her actions here today she’s teaching you a most valuable lesson.”

Only a few of us, after seventeen years, get to meet the doctor who delivered us into this world, but I’m one of those fortunate few. Certainly the circumstances prompting that meeting were unusual enough to provide for an interesting human interest twist. ❖

Sincerely yours,
Robert P. Sherwood

In our community



PHOTO: CRAIG GOODWIN

*Congrats to **Keith Watson**, Black Diamond Citizen of the Year. Keith is president of the historical society, vice president of the community center, a city planning commissioner, the school reunion chairman, and a Miners’ Day committee member.*

Fundraisers, elections ... busy as usual

Greetings! I hope you all experienced a wonderful summer.

Here in Black Diamond we had a cold and wet spring and summer. For the last weeks of August and early September, however, summer did finally arrive.

Labor Day is a wonderful time of the year in Black Diamond. We have

A MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT



**KEITH
WATSON**

activities on the weekend and then have the parade with all kinds of people participating. Across the street from the museum the Eagles feature a car show with many good-looking old

automobiles on display. Here at the museum we open on Labor Day with special hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and have large crowds of people who stop by to relive their memories of Black Diamond.

This year we have the cosmetically restored locomotive where folks can enter the cab and ring the bell and blow the whistle. It's a great draw—especially for families with kids. The idea is to generate interest in history.

The locomotive and caboose are prominent in front of the museum alongside the newly planted garden that extends southward to Railroad Avenue. We have volunteers who planted flowers around the jail and school bell and the whiskey barrel.

They pruned the roses—all being watered by a sprinkler system installed by other volunteers. Wonderful people, these volunteers.

Memorial statue. We're making a plan to create a miners' memorial statue to be located on the museum grounds. The committee chairperson is **Gomer Evans**, whose father was a coal miner. Some of the ideas are to:

- Commission a six-foot bronze coal miner statue to honor miners that were killed in the coal mines of King and Pierce counties as well as coal miners who worked in the mines.
- Display the miners' names engraved in granite.
- Hold a fundraising drive to finance the project.

We know this will be an exciting project and welcome any and all ideas. We have already started raising funds by selling wooden coal cars filled with coal. The members who are making these are **Howard** and **Dorothy Botts** and **Judy Watson**.

Howard cuts out the wood and axle pieces and drills and attaches the wheels. The coal car then proceeds to the decorating table where Dorothy and Judy add Black Diamond coal, paint the cars white and black, and attach labels. They've been selling well for \$20.

Howard could use some help cutting the wood for the coal cars. No special talent needed—he will train you! Please call him at 360-886-2692.

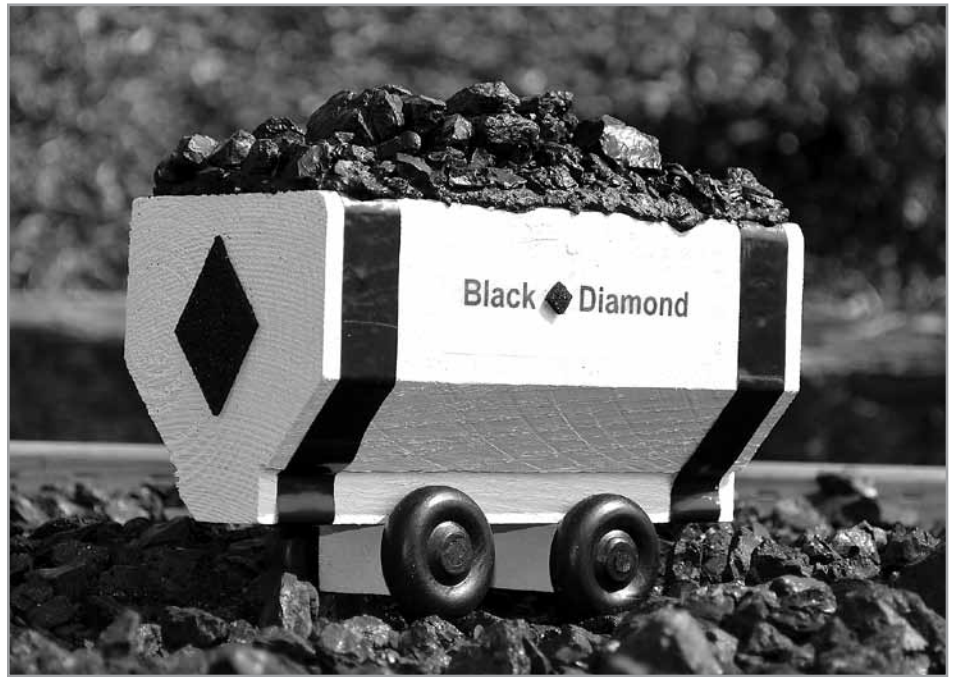


PHOTO: ROBERT DOBSON

The handmade wooden coal cars are only \$20 and make an outstanding Christmas gift or anytime gift. And the money is for a good cause—a miners' memorial. A note of caution: These coal cars are not toys; they are for decoration only.

We need help! Yes, we are in need of volunteers who would like to work at the information desk one Saturday or Sunday each month. You would be working with another volunteer as a greeter, you would be given the title of “docent,” and you would be helping our visiting guests. Just bring an enthusiastic smile and be prepared to greet people from all over the world. Phone **JoAnne Matsumura** or myself at the museum, 360-886-2142. Be prepared to really have fun and a great time. This would be four hours a month. We need you!

We also need help with our committee membership. We have a number of committees: ground and facilities, membership, goals, education and outreach, by-laws, archives, field investigation, programs, tours, Welsh Day, Miners’ Day, School Reunion, digitizing, grants, memorial statue, and public relations.

If you have a background or talent along any of these lines or would like to find out more about the committees, please give me a call at

The objectives of the Black Diamond Historical Society are the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the history of the town of Black Diamond and the surrounding area, King County, and the State of Washington.

360-886-2142. You would be working with some of the best people I know.

StEPS program. The Black Diamond Historical Society has started a program of self-help to objectively look at ourselves and how we compare to the standards of small museums across the country. **Eric Taylor**, of 4Culture of King County, has introduced us to StEPs (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations), a program of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).



CULTURE
KING COUNTY LODGING TAX

We thank 4Culture of King County for its generous support.

This program will help us to examine our standards and policies. Using a self-help workbook, we’ll look at our *Mission, Vision, Governance, Audience, Interpretation, Stewardship of Collections, Stewardship of Historic Structures and Landscapes,*

PRESIDENT, *continued next page*

Election of officers and trustees to the board of directors, October 23

We’ll be having an election for the board of trustees and officers of the Black Diamond Historical Society. The election will be held at the general membership meeting on **October 23**. The nomination/ election committee is co-chaired by **Elsie Parkin** and **Dorothy Botts**.

The officers of the society are president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The board of directors is composed of the above officers and eight directors. Those elected will hold office for two years beginning November 1, 2011.

At this time the nominees for officers are:

Keith Watson, president
Ken Jensen, vice president
Karen Meador, secretary
Don Malgarini, treasurer

Nominees for directors are:

Harry Berry
Howard Botts
Gomer Evans
Dan Hutson
Don Mason
JoAnne Matsumura
Clayton Mead
David Watson

Nominations from the floor will be allowed with prior approval of the nominee.

We welcome you to become involved with the society by becoming a nominee. If you’re interested, call one of the nomination co-chairs: Dorothy at 360-886-2692 or Elsie at 360-886-2941.

The board of directors meets January through November on the third Thursday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in the museum.



PRESIDENT,

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and *Management Practices*. It's designed to help us set best practices for now and into the future.

Oral history project. We were presented the final material from the oral history project that was completed by University of Washington students in November and December of 2010.

This project was sponsored by the YarrowBay Partners in partnership with the University of Washington.

Lea Von Pressentin, with YarrowBay, made the presentation of the material to the society at our July board meeting.

Upcoming events:

Oct. 15–16, *Model Railroad Show, Ravensdale Community Center, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.*

Oct. 23, *General Membership Meeting at the museum, 1 p.m.*

Dec. 10, *BDHS Open House at the museum, 12–3 p.m.*

Dec. 19–Jan. 4, *museum closed*

Thanks to all who were involved with this very successful project. We will be working on this project in the near future.

Thanks for your support!

— Keith



PHOTO: ROBERT DOBSON

Lea Von Pressentin of YarrowBay (left) presents BDHS President Keith Watson with the transcribed oral history project —sponsored by YarrowBay in partnership with the University of Washington.

In our museum



PHOTO: ROBERT DOBSON

This saw blade was recently donated to the museum from the estate of Ernie Seliger, known as the “mayor” of Cumberland, who passed away last year at the age of 95. Ernie operated his own mill, and was a logger and a coal miner, too. The saw blade is on display on the lower-level of the museum.

CUMBERLAND

continued from page 1

Fuel Company, and smaller ones like Occidental, Eureka, and Sunset.”

And also unlike Black Diamond, the railroad came here first, then they started mining coal. In fact, the Northern Pacific literally carved the town out of the wilderness around 1886-1887. Then came the homesteaders. And then came the coal miners. The Milwaukee Road joined the din of activity in town around 1910, building its logging spur from Kerriston Junction to Enumclaw.

At its peak in 1919, Cumberland had around 800 residents and 100 students at its elementary school. Following the 1921 miners’ strike and the declining coal market following World War I, there were only 150 hardy folks who still called Cumberland home by 1931. The post office, which opened October 13, 1894, finally closed for good February 9, 1967.

One of the early homesteaders in these parts was **Fred Nolte**, the “founding father” of Cumberland. Nolte, who had settled on 160 acres around Deep Lake in the early 1880s—now known as Nolte State Park—also homesteaded the area that includes the current town in the late 1880s.

It was Nolte who built the Cumberland Hotel in 1893, still going strong today as the City Hall Saloon & Eatery. It was one of several “hotels” built to house miners, but the stalwart structure also did double-duty as the town’s first post office and store—that is, until **Joe** and **Elizabeth Paschich** opened the

Cumberland Grocery in 1916.

Behind the hotel was the railroad depot, which was served by a daily passenger train. After the hotel was converted into a saloon, the owners continued to rent the rooms upstairs. And rumor has it that a “house of ill-repute” operated up there.

While Photographer **Bob Dobson**, BDHS Directors **Dan Hutson** and **Don Mason**, and I were doing some “research” at the saloon—just chatting with patrons, mind you—several old-timers confirmed that the rumor was ... well, still just a good rumor!

Nolte was also an investor and operator of several coal mines. “Ol’ man Nolte, he opened up some of them coal veins up around Cumberland. He made money that way,” recalled **Ernie Seliger**.

And Seliger—the unofficial “mayor” of Cumberland, who passed away last summer—would have known. He spent all 95 of his years in Cumberland. A coal miner, a logger, and the owner of his own mill, what Seliger didn’t know about Cumberland first-hand he learned from his father, **Arthur Seliger**, who was born in nearby Veazie in 1889.

Arthur’s father came to Veazie with the railroad and homesteaded there, carving out an existence in an area where the trees were so big it was difficult to clear the land.

“They’d build a fire—they great big trees—they didn’t have saws to cut ‘em down. So they’d build a fire at the base of the tree until it burnt off and fell over,” said Seliger in a taped interview with Don Mason. “Then they’d take axes and chop all the

Storekeeper’s murder recounted

Enumclaw Courier, February 27, 1920 — *Joseph Paschich, storekeeper and postmaster at Cumberland, was shot to death at his home Thursday morning. He was roused from sleep about 2 o’clock by the smashing of glass at the front of the store. The family lives in the building. Paschich arose and stopping only to put on his trousers and seize a gun, ran out probably supposing a robbery was being attempted. As he appeared around the corner of the building he received a shot in the left breast near the heart. The effect not being immediately fatal, he emptied his gun and returned to his room, where he soon expired.*

The opinion of some who are familiar with the circumstances is that the deed was planned, by enemies to draw Paschich to the scene and make way with him, rather than for the purpose of robbing the store and post office. This theory comes from the fact that the breaking of the glass was so loud as to resemble an explosion, and nothing indicates that the outlaws gained entrance.

Joseph T. Paschich was 45 years of age and was a native of Austria. He came to this country with his parents about 35 years ago and settled at Krain. Several years ago he engaged in the mercantile business at Cumberland.

CUMBERLAND, *continued next page*



The Cumberland Hotel was originally built in 1893. It was also known as Big Mike's and Carolyn's. This April 4, 1940, photo is courtesy King County Assessor Property Record Card collection, Washington State Archives, Puget Sound Branch.



Today the hotel is known as the City Hall Saloon & Eatery. It's a popular spot for bikers each Thursday and has live music on the weekends. (Photo: Robert Dobson)

CUMBERLAND

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limbs off and place the limbs up against the tree and start the fire and burn that whole tree up.”

Selinger was born just after the town was platted in 1910 by the Fleet Coal Company, which operated a mine on the Eureka seam. Its officers, **B. Fallows** and **G.W. Weatherly**, president and secretary, respectively, signed the plat. Among the street names were School Street, Fleet Street, and the ubiquitous Railroad Avenue. In fact, the Veazie-Cumberland Road through Cumberland was originally Weatherly Avenue, while 312th Way SE was Fallows Avenue.

The Fleet Coal Company never amounted to much, but its plat did leave a legacy that survives today even if the names of the roads didn't.

And that's true of much of what has transpired in Cumberland's long history.



Coal mining was more or less over by the 1950s, but the telltale signs are still there—it just takes some looking.

Members of the society managed to find both openings of the Navy Mine, now sealed, to the south of Cumberland this spring. To the west are the huge foundation ruins of the Hyde Mine, hidden under a thick canopy of trees and by the passage of time.

And some of Cumberland's history is hiding in plain sight: The Cumberland School Gymnasium, now owned by the King County Fire District, is a good example.

That's what I find so fascinating about Cumberland's history—and that of parts of Black Diamond, Selleck, and Ravensdale, too: *It's still there to see.*



— Ken Jensen



The Cumberland Store was opened by Joe and Elizabeth Paschich in 1916. This September 18, 1959, photo is courtesy King County Assessor Property Record Card collection, Washington State Archives, Puget Sound Branch.



The Cumberland Grocery is little changed almost 95 years later except that the post office that was once inside is now long gone. (Photo: Robert Dobson)



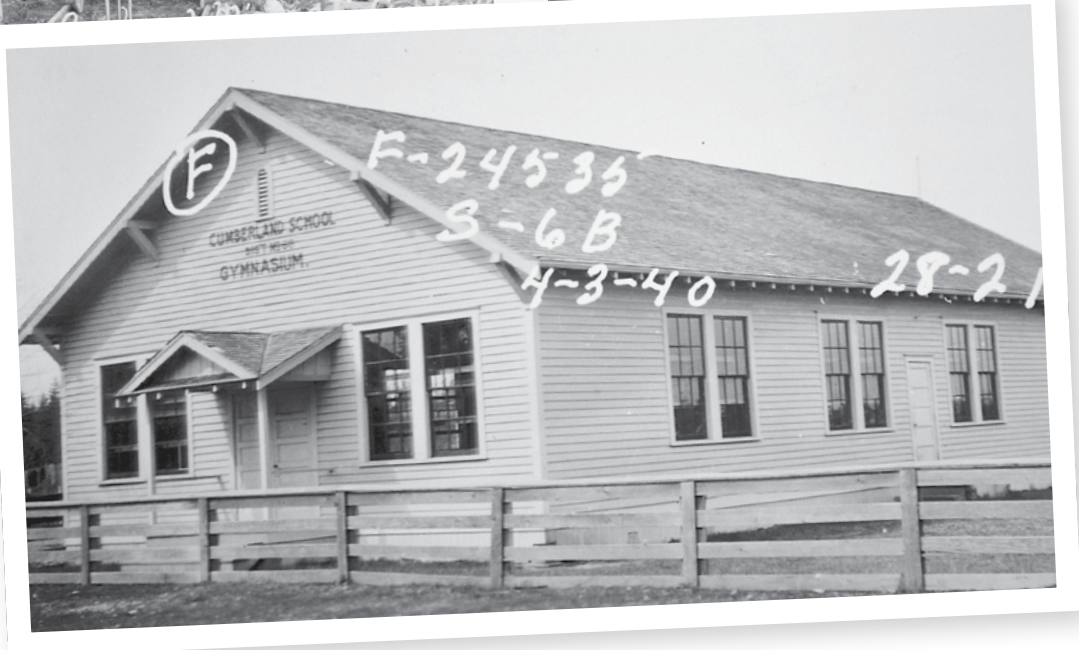
PHOTO: KEN JENSEN



Left: Brandon Jensen, Dan Hutson, Ty Nowicki, and Don Mason visit the site of Navy Mine No. 2.



Above: The opening of the main tunnel of the Navy Mine, about 1895 (from the 1977 BDHS calendar series). Upper-right: The King County Fire District 28 building (Photo: Ken Jensen) was once the Cumberland School Gymnasium at lower-right. (This April 3, 1940, photo is courtesy King



County Assessor Property Record Card collection, Washington State Archives, Puget Sound Branch.)

County schoolmarm needed to be more than just a teacher

Miss Iva L. Buchanan, from Rio, Wisconsin, began teaching Cumberland students on September 16, 1910, along with **Miss Mary Shields**, who had arrived earlier. Iva had earned her Certificate 1 with an expiration date of August 1915,

A PIONEER *family* ALBUM



**JOANNE
MATSUMURA**

netting her \$70 per month for 8 months.

Mary, with her Certificate 2, earned \$85 per month for 9 months.

In those days, teachers needed to be more than just classroom

educators.

For instance, Iva arranged field trips. "One day last week we walked up to Bayne, about a mile and a quarter, and came down on the early train," she wrote in her letter to her parents. Then in late March, she wrote that they decided on a long walk, this time "crossing the brooks and climbed to the top of the stone quarry going over and around boulders, through loose sandy soil, caught hold of old burned trees, and finally reached the top.

"We could see 5 or 6 miles and that is unusual as it is so hilly. There were evergreen trees everywhere, and now and then road, a small town, or a lake to break the smoothness of the tree tops."

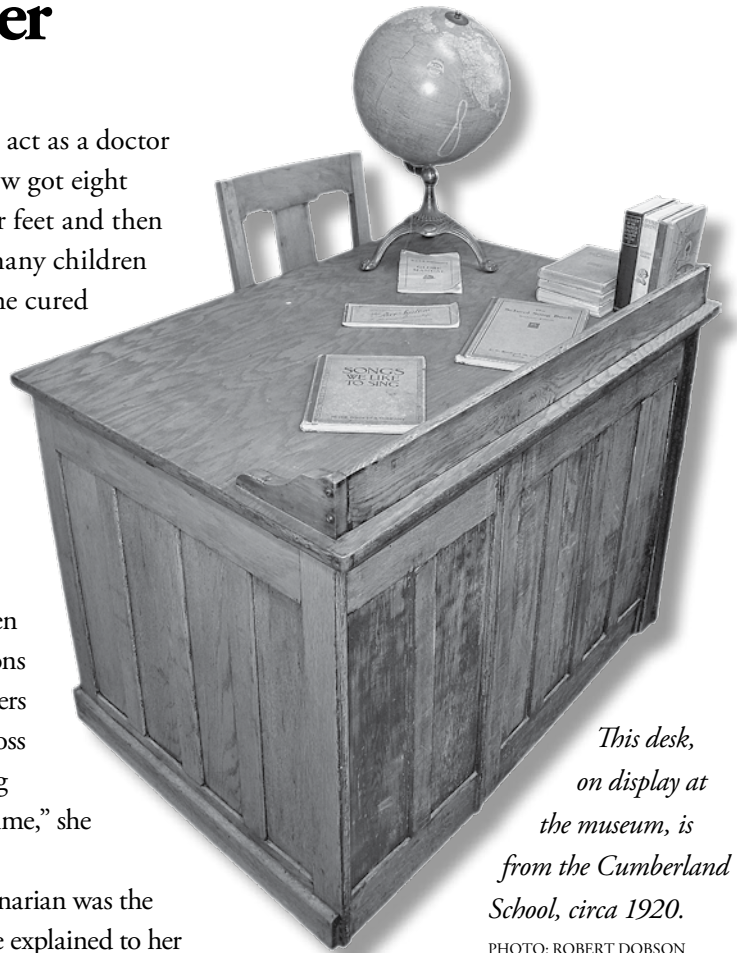
Iva also had to act as a doctor when she somehow got eight ring worms in her feet and then discovered that many children had them, too. She cured them with dioxogen and zinc salve, teaching each child how to use the zinc salve.

Then there was helping the children become sales persons as "all my youngsters are selling Red Cross Stamps and having quite an exciting time," she wrote.

Being a disciplinarian was the hardest task, as she explained to her parents in one of her letters. "One of my youngsters was caught swearing and I scrubbed the boy's mouth out and his mother did not approve. He is a holy terror and the board to whom the mother appealed thought it was a good joke. The boy has been an angel ever since."

Iva enjoyed writing to her parents about the fun games when at last it finally snowed and the "youngsters went wild with their snowballing." And in the spring on one of their walks in the woods, she described "quantities of ferns moist and fresh, of maiden hair ferns, and swords as high as your head and tiny swamp ferns."

Cooking also was Iva's task as she began preparing for Thanksgiving for the youngsters. "We have been living



This desk, on display at the museum, is from the Cumberland School, circa 1920.

PHOTO: ROBERT DOBSON

high here this week with three chickens and five pheasants as they are much cheaper," she wrote.

Iva's tasks included the laundry not only for herself, but sometimes for the youngsters as well. She wrote of being the sole housekeeper of the school. "I even washed my switch, as you can't keep the coal black off up here."

Just before Christmas of 1910, Iva wrote home of the earth shaking, the house moving, everything tipsy, the furniture moving and the climb to get into the house as "the steps are minus."

There were those sad times, too, when Iva needed to console and counsel the youngsters when a father died in the mine or the mother in childbirth or illness.

Teachers also needed to be artistic to brighten the dark days of winter. She'd bring in greens from the forest and make colorful decorations for the Christmas program and the school house. "The youngsters are wild about Christmas and on that account are hard to keep straight," she wrote.

Iva wrote in detail to her parents of the decorations for all the school house windows, the wall above the blackboard, and every bare wall space in the classroom. One wall was covered in cedar boughs woven together until there was nothing of the wall showing. She used deer moss to cover a rope with sprays of Oregon grape trimmed with tinsel and colorful bells from which her gifts for the children would be hung. Iva bought them candy, paint boxes, post albums, marbles, chalks, and paper. She wrote that "nothing costs more than five cents and mostly are less."

Iva was a planner—everything written down to the last detail. She planned just the right part for every child for the Christmas program, from singing Christmas songs to each child participating in some way.

To add to the holiday festivities, Iva was excited as she wrote that "the storekeeper has given a 30-pound pail of candy to the cause which means nearly half a pound for each youngster. If only I had a Kodak (camera) to take pictures of the inside of the school building that houses only my troop and is really small for that."

It was snowing on Groundhog Day in 1911, as she wrote home to the folks in Rio, stating another six weeks of winter as she hurried to get her letter in the daily mail for the east.

On a trip to Seattle to visit friends, she needed to see a dentist. She stated that "he fixed me up good and only

charged me \$3." Like many women who sewed their own clothes, she shopped for fabric so that she and **Mrs. Nolte** could teach each other new techniques on her "dandy Singer Sewing machine."

She wrote that one of her youngsters was in the Tacoma hospital. "The mine union is striking and all coal mines around town are shut down and men are idle. The large mine will not open until next September and I will not have any more youngsters and may lose some," which she later did.

Iva declined an invitation from her landlord and lady to attend a Saturday night dance, stating that she was glad she did not go as "it ended in a drunken fight in which cups, etc., were thrown around the hall."

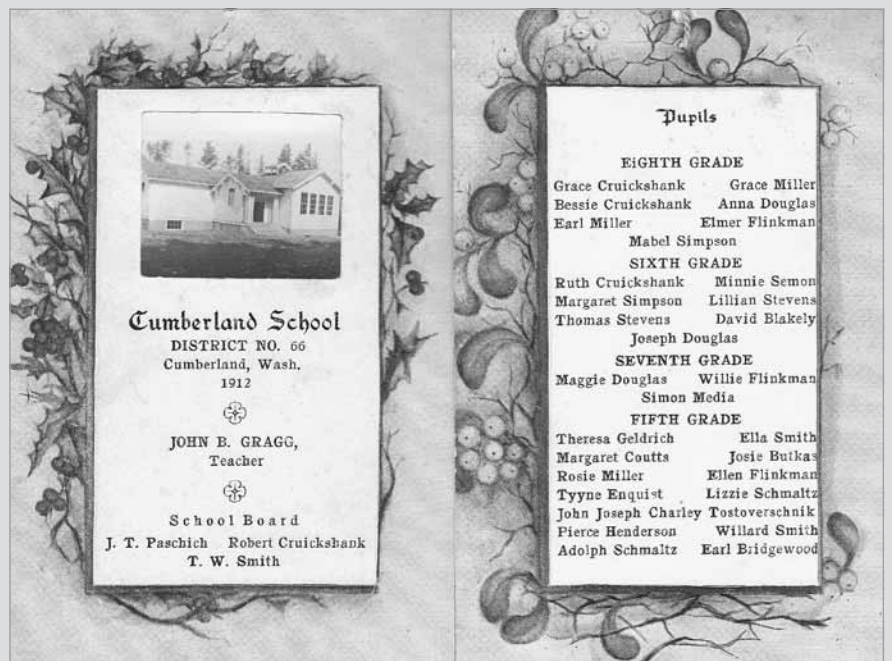
Seems things haven't changed much over time.

As spring approached, she wrote to her parents that she had applied for a teaching job in the Everett School District to be nearer to friends from hometown Rio and wanting "to leave this place for civilization." She finished her record for another three-month term and stated "only three months—twelve weeks, sixty days more to teach and then I am out of this place. You can bet that I will leave as promptly as possible." ❖

—JoAnne

Information for this article is from eight personal letters Iva sent to her parents, held in the private collection of JoAnne Matsumura.

From our archives



This 1912 Cumberland School graduation card, from the year after Iva Buchanan left Cumberland "for civilization," has a few pioneer names you may recognize: the Paschichs owned the Cumberland Store, the Millers owned a saloon and boarding house near the Navy mine, the Tostoverschniks (later shortened to Tosts) lived in town into the 1990s, and the Coutts still call Cumberland home.

Pictures of the past



This photo of Cumberland School students, circa 1930, was donated to the museum in 2006. But we don't have any information in our accession records to indicate the year the photo was taken or the names of the schoolchildren. If you can help us out, we'd sure appreciate it.

1,469

Number of guests visiting the museum during the third quarter of 2011.

Be our guest

During the months of June through August, the museum had 1,469 guests. Visitors hailed from 10 states—Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and, of course, Washington—as well as from Canada, China, and India.

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

“

Very interesting

Awesome, fun & cool

Fascinating info and very well put together as a museum

Always such a treat

Wonderful exhibits

We love looking at the old things

Fascinating—a lot of history

A beautiful museum

Wonderful treasures to see

Very interesting, well kept up & a wide variety of things

Been here my whole life, still love it

Very eye opening

Awesome museum

My kids love it & want to return

Amazing facts of history

One of our favorite spots

Thank you for being here

Long-time society president passes

Robert “Bob” Byers Eaton, Jr., passed away July 27, 2011, in Bellevue, Washington, having resided at Lake Sawyer since the mid-1950s. He was born in Waltham, Massachusetts, on May 13, 1916.

Bob was a lifetime member of the society and served as president from 1984 until 1999. His contributions to the society extend above and beyond the call of duty of a volunteer. He was instrumental in many improvement projects for the historic depot building, now the historic museum.

It was in the summer of 1980 when Bob ventured down to the museum to watch the small crew of men working on the depot building. By November he had served as a volunteer for a few months helping the “Thursday Crew.”

As time passed he became more involved with the society and in 1983 he helped design a plan for a shop, asking the men to bring their own tools from home. By May he’d created plans for the baggage room, kitchen, office, and shop, and the work began.

Bob’s bigger dream for 1984 was for a new roof, the miners’ washhouse, and railroad tracks in front of the depot building. And so it came to reality for all future visitors to enjoy. He also began inquiring about grants and worked steadily for the society to apply them for special projects.

In early 1987 Bob filed for a large county grant to build a “new room” in the southwest side under the building for display and storage. This became the current automotive and forging display area in our lower level of the museum.

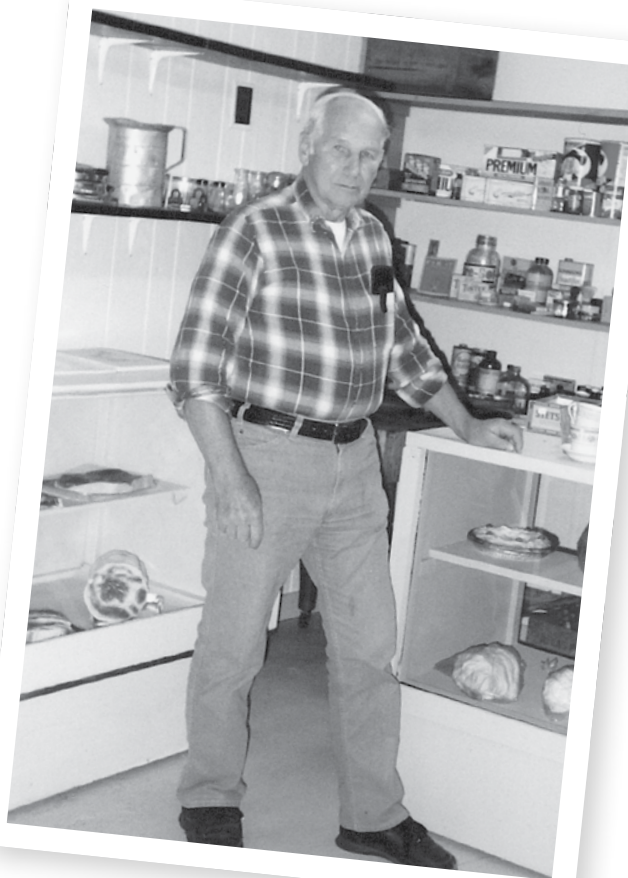
After a two-year hunt, Bob—along with Carl and Ann Steiert and other volunteers—the society acquired the caboose in October 1988. The work crew learned in short order that they got more work than they bargained for!

Bob was also involved with the Lake Sawyer Community Club, the Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO), King County Marine Patrol Officer, and also served as a Covington Water District commissioner, City of Black Diamond planning commissioner, and was a long-time member of the Labor Day committee.

The society is grateful for Bob’s vision, his long tenure, and his contributions.

As a second career, Bob was employed with the Seattle City Light from 1954 until 1979 as an electrical maintenance engineer and was president of the City Light Employees Association.

Bob was a Boy Scout master and we learned that he could *do-si-do* on the



square dance floor with precision! For a while he worked with teenage square dance groups.

The society is grateful for Bob’s vision, his long tenure, and his contributions to the society, and for expanding the historic museum to display the community’s treasures.

He is survived by his wife **Emma Annie Eaton** of more than 70 years. They were married July 12, 1941. His children and great and great-great-grandchildren also survive him.

Bob was interned at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Washington, with military honors, having served in the U.S. Navy for more than 25 years. He was also a member of the Chief Fleet Reserve Association. ☸

In memoriam

Gone but not forgotten

Grover Cleveland Smail, one of the last Black Diamond underground coal miners, passed away on September 5, 2011, at the age of 98 in Kent, Washington. The last survivor of 13 children, he was born August 6, 1913, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, to George Washington and Martha Smail.

The society was honored to have Grover as a guest speaker at one of our general membership meetings where he shared his mining

experiences with an auditorium of guests. He worked at Elkcoal, Franklin, Kummer, and Ravensdale, and for the Morris Brothers Coal Co. for more than 20 years.

Grover began mining at 16 when he joined his father to help with the family income. He worked for 45 years in the industry and became a member of the United Mine Workers of America. Out of necessity Grover worked at other occupations when the mining work halted. But a miner at heart, Grover always returned to the mines when possible.

Learning from friends of mining opportunities in Washington State in

1941, Grover and his wife sold much of what they had, loaded the rest on a two-wheeled trailer along with their four children (a fifth was born in 1942), and headed West—embarking on the trip of a lifetime.

He found employment in the Renton/Black Diamond area and set about building a home on several acres for his family—fondly called the Smail Family Homestead—where they lived until 1979.

Grover is survived by his wife Ruby Sweeney Smail and three daughters: Emma L. Barber, Ruby I. Armstrong, and Edith M. Smail, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his two sons: James S. Smail and Grover C. Smail, Jr.

Grover was interred at Washington Memorial Park, SeaTac, Washington.

Donations

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

In memory of:

Rich Bainton,
by Robert & Jodine M. Burke

Helen Bremmeyer,
by John & Margie Markus, Cliff & Della Moody, Mr. & Mrs. Dale Warren, and Windy & Lorraine Winsor

John S. Davies,
by James & Cathy Bradley

Robert Eaton,
by Palmer Coking Coal Co. and Don & Lynn Mason

Tom & Angie Erath,
by Mary Jo Erath Carlson

Betty King,
by Jerrine Hope

Stanley B. Konoske,
Jerold & Gloria Thompson

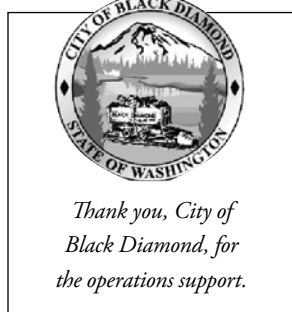
Evelyn Youngjohns Richardson,
by Palmer Coking Coal Co.

Grover C. Smail,
by Emma L. Barber

John Ross Streepy,
by Palmer Coking Coal Co.

Ralph L. Zeek,
by Joe & Evelyn Dal Santo and Lynda Maks

Archive preservation:
*Lois Crowther
Samuel O. Regalado*



General fund:

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Mike & Bonnie Malgarini

Robert E. McKee

Alice J. Morris

K-C Food Corporation

Seattle Welsh Women's Club

Newsletter fund:

Lynne Bonnell

Matt & Ann G. Eisenberg

Harry C. Kreul

Joan Newman

Ralph L. Zeek, a Black Diamond classmate of many of you, passed away on August 1, 2011, in Arizona. Ralph was born in Cle Elum, Washington, on October 1, 1926.

Ralph was a member of the Black Diamond School Alumni and the brother of Lucille Zeek Hughlitt, Black Diamond Class of 1939.

Thanks for the memories

Rich Bainton

Nov. 21, 1958 – August 24, 2011
Son of Gerald & Vivian Bainton

Alfa Elizabeth Butcher

July 23, 1923 – July 31, 2011
Mother of Cindy Petchnick

Marjorie H. Fischer

June 21, 1927 – July 15, 2011
Mother of David Fischer, president of Southport Land Co.

Merlene Burningham Sherwood

June 14, 1931 – December 23, 2010
Wife of Robert P. Sherwood

These donations are greatly appreciated. The Black Diamond Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Welcome new and renewing members

The Black Diamond Historical Society now has 305 members. We are pleased to welcome our newest members this quarter:

Carol A. Anderson

Barney Carnino

Bob & Anna Marie Duncan

Matt & Ann Eisenberg

Craig & Leeann Grip

Janice Harlin

Virgil Holman

Harry C. Kreul

Robert E. McKee

Joan Newman

Traci Parent

Robert P. Sherwood

We would like to thank the following members for renewing their membership this quarter:

Harry W. Berry

Lynne Bonnell

Cathy Jean Bradley

Mary Jo Erath Carlson

Robert & Joann Doyer

Tom & Joyce Erath

R. Wayne & Pat Frantz

Paul & Bev Goldsberry

Harry Irwin

Steve & Dee Israel

Jean M. Kelly

Mary M. Kennedy

Mike & Bonnie Malgarini

Bunny McKnight

Karen Meador

Alice J. Morris

Maureen Pritchard

Southport Land & Commercial Co.

Taff Roofing, Inc.

Rebecca Teeters

Margaret White

Mark & Peggi Witman



Membership and Renewal Form



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If this is a gift, who is it from? _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Annual Membership Fees

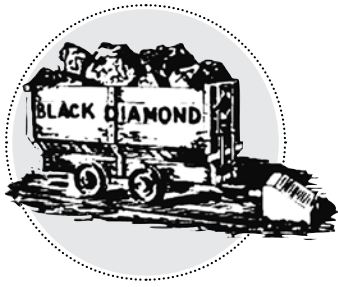
Individual	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
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For our records, on all checks please note purpose of check. (Dues, Donation, Memorial, etc.)

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Mount Rainier campground: As I remember it in the 1930s

*By Ruth Ayers Hofto,
now 101 “years young”*

This playful, yet serious scene of a Mount Rainier campground was painted by **Ruth Ayers Hofto**. It will be raffled at the society’s **October 23** general membership meeting. Tickets are \$5 each.



PHOTO: ROBERT DOBSON

Growing up in Issaquah, Ruth found that she liked to paint. Ruth’s painting passion began about age 6 when she painted a bowl of pansies at school. She’s not exactly sure how, but a local butcher saw the painting. During a visit to his store he gave her a free wiener and told her to keep painting. And she’s been painting ever since! Proceeds from the raffle will be dedicated to our Newsletter Fund.