

## Also in this issue

A jewel most enticing..... 2

President's message..... 3

### Living on the lake

Olness's dance pavilion..... 4

Doyer's cabin ..... 6

Wells' island home.....7

Strand's grocery ..... 10

Legacy of the weir..... 12

### Bulletin board

Donations ..... 13

Upcoming events..... 13

In memoriam..... 14

Guests ..... 14

Membership ..... 15

On the grounds ..... 16

## Lake Sawyer Lumber Company

# Logging was an early player in the economy of the area

**W**HILE COAL WAS KING in Black Diamond's early days, logging and sawmilling also played significant roles in the local economy. The Pacific Coast Coal Company built a mill in the 1920s, likely used for making mine timbers. The largest operation here, however, was the Lake Sawyer Lumber

Company owned by the **Neukirchen brothers**. It consisted of a sawmill facility located on the northeast corner of the lake and a log dump along the southwest shore near where the Sunrise Resort is currently located.

The Neukirchens originally started out with a sawmill, planing mill, lumber yard, and logging operation located near Issaquah, which operated from 1910 until 1918. It's likely that after 8 or 9 years, their sources of timber in the



immediate area began to dry up, having been logged out.

Seeking a new timber source, they began to focus on Lake Sawyer and incorporated the Lake Sawyer Lumber Co. on September 20, 1919, with a total capitalization of \$30,000. Construction of the mill didn't begin until 1921 with start up finally begun in April 1922.

*Lake Sawyer log dump, 1928.  
Courtesy of University of  
Washington Libraries, Special  
Collections, C. Kinsey No. 1684*



## BULLETIN

SPRING 2011

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.

Black Diamond Bulletin is published quarterly by and for the members of the Black Diamond Historical Society. The society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. (TIN 51-0170304).

**PRESIDENT** Keith Watson

**VICE PRESIDENT** Don Malgarini

**SECRETARY** Dee Israel

**TREASURER** Clayton Mead

### DIRECTORS

Harry Berry  
Don "Doc" Botts  
Howard Botts  
Gomer Evans  
Dan Hutson  
Ken Jensen  
Don Mason  
JoAnne Matsumura

**EDITOR** Ken Jensen

### ARTICLES

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](mailto:BlackDiamondHistory@comcast.net)

### CONTACT

Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum  
P.O. Box 232  
32627 Railroad Avenue  
Black Diamond, WA 98010

PHONE 360-886-2142

E-MAIL [museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org](mailto:museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org)

### WEB

[www.blackdiamondmuseum.org](http://www.blackdiamondmuseum.org)  
[www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory](http://www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory)  
[www.blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com](http://www.blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com)  
[www.twitter.com/BD\\_History](http://www.twitter.com/BD_History)

### HOURS

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

# A jewel most enticing

## A MESSAGE from the EDITOR



**KEN  
JENSEN**

**T**hat's how the Pacific Coast Coal Co. described Lake Sawyer in its 1921 brochure, "A Pleasure Jaunt Over the Road to Success."

And enticing it is. The Lake Sawyer area was annexed by the City of Black Diamond in 1998, but the society has never dedicated an entire issue to just the lake. *Until now.*

And we didn't just *write* about the lake. We went to the people who live there today to tell the stories: City Councilmember **Craig Goodwin**; Palmer Coking Coal Co. Manager **Bill Kombol**; Mayor **Rebecca Olness** and her husband, **Ron**; and Lake Sawyer Grocery Owner **Ted Strand**, just to name a few.

Lake Sawyer shares a common history with many of the lakes in our area. That is, first came the loggers, then the lakeside resorts, followed by summer cabins and finally giving way to year-round homes.

*A Land of Practical Playgrounds* was the sales pitch used by the Pacific Coast Coal Co. in 1921 to sell some of its holdings, including parcels around the lake. The "playgrounds" were also an added enticement to bring the miners and their families to the company's towns, as this clip from a 1924 issue of the *Pacific Coast Bulletin* attests.

.....  
*OUT HERE IN THE GREAT NORTHWEST, almost every day in the year is ideal for vacation trips. Consequently there are many who now make the most of the advantages right at hand by taking a vacation close to home. No need for a resident of Burnett to seek the rugged fastnesses of a mountain range in a distant state—not with majestic Mt. Rainier within a stone's throw. Black Diamond people don't need the lure of placid lakes or rushing mountain torrents—with Lake Sawyer and Green River Gorge in their very dooryards. Fishing and hunting, or a woodland paradise for the camper, is there for the asking of every Newcastle citizen.*  
.....

I think you'll agree that our region is unique in natural wonders, rich history, and its people. And what we discovered in preparing this issue on Lake Sawyer is that we've just skimmed the surface. Enjoy.

— Ken

**Errata:** In the last issue we incorrectly identified the Zumek brothers. The brothers are **Tom** (not Louis), Joe, and Frank.

# Franklin tours, project updates, and more

**H**ello fellow members. We're holding a General Membership Meeting on Sunday, April 17, in the museum at 1 p.m. Please join us in reviewing our activities, discussing future projects, and looking for ideas for improvement.

So far this year we've had two tours to the Franklin town site. Added to the tour this year are new, larger

## A MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT



**KEITH  
WATSON**

photographs and a portable speaker system. We first invite attendees to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement and then show them a slide show orientation at the museum, after which

we proceed to Franklin. Our tour director, **Don Mason**, has been joined by an assistant tour director, **Dan Hutson**.

Dan has also been named as a member of the board of directors of the society. Dan goes way back with the society when he worked as a docent back in the '80s.

In February I appointed **John Nadeau** as a special assistant to the president. John has been helping the society with the locomotive project as well as others in and around the museum. Another member who has been helping us with the locomotive project and the museum grounds is **Brian Mead**.



*Don Mason talks about the Franklin Catholic Church on February 5 while his assistants, Dan Hutson, left, and Keith Watson, hold the photo.*

Both of these volunteers, along with **Gomer Evans** and **Don Deffley**, have just about finished the locomotive project. The rebuilding of the Draghi coal car was also accomplished by these great volunteers. Thank you very much!

And speaking of the locomotive, we now have a brass whistle thanks to Don Deffley and **Suzy Thompson**,

and it sounds wonderful. **Don Malgarini** polished it so it looks new and sounds great. We'll have the grand opening and ribbon cutting for the Locomotive Display during Miners Day in July.

Thank you members and volunteers for helping us. We couldn't keep history alive without you.

— Keith

## Mark your calendars

- April 17** General membership meeting at the museum, 1 p.m.
- June 1** Black Diamond School Reunion at the Black Diamond Community Center, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
*This is for students who attended school in Black Diamond up through 1960.*
- June 4** Welsh Day at the museum, noon to 3 p.m.  
*A very special program starts at 1 p.m. See page 13 for more info.*
- July 9** Miners Day on Railroad Avenue, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
*Live music, a 5K fun and walk race, beer garden, a chili cookoff, and much more.*

**Need more info? Call Keith Watson at 360-886-0778.**

# Olness home includes dance pavilion

**T**he first thing you notice about Black Diamond Mayor **Rebecca Olness** and her husband **Ron**'s home is the spectacular view of Lake Sawyer from their deck. The second thing you notice is the somewhat peculiar room off to the right with the wall-to-wall cedar paneling; a curved, cedar-paneled ceiling with beams made from tree saplings—bark and all; two white, semi-transparent glass windows; and between them, a large river rock-faced fireplace.

But of course this is precisely the room I came to see.

I discovered their home's historic room by accident. I reposted an entry from **Craig Goodwin**'s *Black Diamond NOW* blog about The Grove at Lake Sawyer—which included a photo from the resort—on the historical society's *Black Diamond History* Facebook page. Olness responded immediately that the view in the photo is one she knows well because it was taken from where her home sits today.

It turns out that the room was the original dance pavilion of that very same resort—later known as **Lochow's Resort**. It was built in the early 1920s—or at least by June 1925 when **Asahel Curtis** photographed the resort's boathouse.

As described in *A Glimpse of the Charmed Land 1925*—originally a supplement to weekly newspapers published by **Louis Jacobin** (and available at the museum for \$5)—“The Grove Resort at Lake Sawyer



*Above: A part of the Olnesses' home was once The Grove's dance pavilion: shown here are the cedar-paneled walls and ceiling. Left: Rebecca Olness poses in front of the resort's original fireplace in 1920s dress for a costume party. Seems only appropriate!*

*Right, top: The Grove at Lake Sawyer's boat house, as photographed by Asahel Curtis in June 1925.*

*Right, bottom: The same location from the Olnesses' deck, just 86 years separating the two photos.*

is not only located on the lake shore, but is bedecked with virgin forest trees and bespangled with many kinds of beautiful flowers. These flowers have been planted and cultivated until much of the resort is a bower of bloom and especially so around the rustic summer cottages.”

The resort was located on the

west side of the lake, just south of the current Sunrise Resort. It was one of two large resorts on the lake at the time—the other being the Lake Sawyer Paradise Resort at the very southern end of the lake next to today's Lake Sawyer Regional Park. Paradise was also photographed by Curtis on the same day in 1925.



The cottages are long gone as is all other evidence of the resort, but the dance pavilion still stands testament to the days when visitors would ply away the summer months at the local resorts. Olness recalled the stories of her aunt who would come from Seattle and rent a cabin at one of the resorts on the lake, dancing away the

evenings on one of the islands.

Thanks to the Olnesses for sharing the history of their home with the society.



— Ken Jensen

Mayor Olness and her husband Ron have lived on the lake for the past 37 years.

## Fly fishing in the waters of Puget Sound

**Pacific Sportsman, December 1904** — *Away up here in the foothills of the Cascade mountains, there are many beautiful lakes and streams teeming with trout, among which are Deep and Fish Lakes. Here **Mat Obmes** and a couple of friends made a catch of 40 or 50 pounds of trout with a common trout fly on a No. 4 hook in July last. In Lake No. 12 where there are plenty of trout **Ed Marks** and two friends caught 365 trout in eight hours, some weighing two and a half pounds.*

***Lake Sawyer**, which is by far the largest of all, being some two miles in length by one mile in width, also is full of trout. The shadows of the lofty firs reflecting back their images on its placid surface; the dense overhanging shrubbery, from which the song birds warble their soft, sweet notes, wafted by a gentle breeze to the clear blue sky above the occasional swish-swash of the mighty trout as he makes his lightning-like strike at some wing-weary fly which has dropped upon its mirror-like surface, make this an ideal spot to enjoy a season of rest and recreation and to fish with rod and reel or trolling line.*

— J. W. Bussey

# The Doyer's 'cabin in the rough'

In 1942 **Robert** and **Winifred Doyer**, with young son **Robert, Jr.**, had that pioneering spirit when they bought a lake front lot at Lake Sawyer. After purchasing additional adjoining lots, they began building their log cabin with all the "primitive conveniences."

Using fir trees on the property, they cut them into 8-foot lengths, peeled them of bark, and installed them on a concrete foundation.

"Some of the timbers were salvaged from the old Soos Creek Bridge," said Robert, Jr. "The floors were shiplap as was the roof sheeting." The cabin is 24 feet by 32 feet with a large rock fireplace at one end.

The family "roughed it" for several years, hauling water from Jenkins Creek. There was no electricity and their only source of heating was the fireplace and the kitchen stove.

By the late 1940s Robert, Jr. had learned how to pull a "misery whip"—a two-man crosscut saw used to fell large trees. Later they obtained a drag saw, a vintage chain saw, and Robert, Jr. was assuming the task of wood cutting all on his own.

"Eventually electricity and a water well came in and at last we were able to burn down the outhouse," Robert, Jr. said. All in all, their newly convenient log house cost about \$3,500, as noted in mom's diary and accounting of expenditures.



*This photo above was taken recently while the photo at right was shot in 1946.*



"There were winters when we could ice skate on a certain area of the lake," said Robert, Jr. There was some duck and deer hunting. There was also The Grove at Lake Sawyer Resort with a string of cabins on the shore and a large boat house owned by **Ludi** and **Mable Lochow**. Their son, **Jack**, and Robert Jr. were pals—swimming and fishing every inch of the lake. "We peeled lots of cascara for spending money."

Their close neighbors were the **Espings**, **Sassettis**, **Horns**, **Poncharts**, and **Sunblins**. They had many friends living at the lake and in town: **Lloyd** and **Lendel Hagen** and **George** and **Marie Eipper**.

Robert and Winifred lived in their log cabin until about 1965. In those early days there were only seven families who lived at the lake year round. "Roads were all gravel and lots of dust," Robert, Jr. said.

There were times when Robert Sr. worked in the mines. On one occasion

while working in the Ravensdale mine he was injured when a gondola brake failed and he broke several ribs on the brake wheel.

"My mother grew orchids at home in two greenhouses, selling plants and corsages for dances and special occasions," he said. Winifred passed away in 1986, followed by Robert, Sr. in 1987.

Robert, Jr. joined the Navy in 1950 and began a life of his own. He and his wife, JoAnn, have three sons and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. ❖

— JoAnne Matsumura

*We thank Robert, Jr. and JoAnn Doyer for their contribution of information and the 1946 image of the Doyer cabin. As of this writing, the Doyers are considering relocating near the lake.*

# Cyrus Wells' island home



No, that's not a house boat! It's a home built on an island in the southeast portion of Lake Sawyer.

The 936-square-foot home was built around 1935, presumably by its owner, **Cyrus J. Wells**. The foundation of the

## PHOTO from the ARCHIVES



**BILL  
KOMBOL**

one-story house was partly on the island and partly supported by 10-inch piling. There were two rooms with open stud interior walls, a stove for heat, and a concrete chimney. The roof was composition and the home featured a 240-square-foot front porch as well as three small exterior porches to the rear of the home. There was neither plumbing nor electrical.

From 1936 to 1940, the King

*This photo, looking northeast, was taken by the King County assessor on December 13, 1939, and it looks as if the lake may have been frozen that day. The house was torn down in 1958, but the small island is still there, though it gets smaller each year due to the wave action from motor boats.*

County assessor, using funding from the depression-era Works Progress Administration (WPA), undertook a remarkable project to catalog and photograph every improved property in the county. For the fascinating story of how this huge archive of photos came to exist, go to [www.historylink.org](http://www.historylink.org) and type **King County Land Use Survey WPA** in the search box.

This comprehensive collection of historic King County Assessor property records and photographs is housed at the Puget Sound Regional Archives on the campus of Bellevue College near Eastgate.

Copies of these historic photos can be purchased together with tax records showing the ownership history, the type of improvements, and other

detailed information about each specific property.

**For more info, call the Puget Sound Regional Archives at 425-564-3940, e-mail them at [PSBranchArchives@sos.wa.gov](mailto:PSBranchArchives@sos.wa.gov), or visit [www.sos.wa.gov/archives/archives\\_puget.aspx](http://www.sos.wa.gov/archives/archives_puget.aspx).**

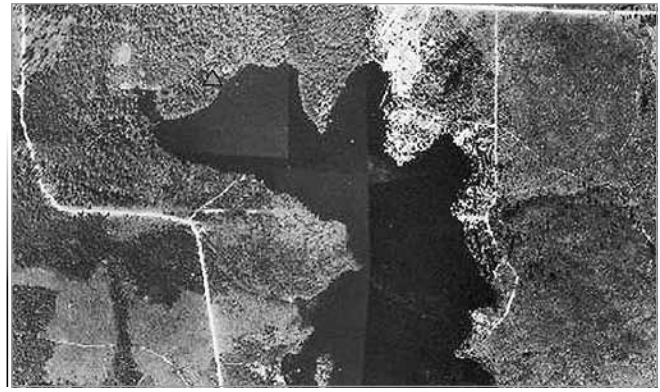
Searches can be made with the address or preferably the property's tax parcel number.

— Bill

*Bill Kombol's "When Coal Was King" column appears weekly in the Voice of the Valley newspaper.*



*The Lake Sawyer Lumber Company, headquartered in Issaquah, was incorporated September 20, 1919. The sawmill, shown here, was located on the northeast corner of the lake.*



*In this 1936 aerial photo, to the southwest there are several rail lines delivering to a log dump. The two islands serve as a good reference point for where these log dumps were located.*

## LUMBER COMPANY

*continued from page 1*

Why locate at Lake Sawyer? A ready supply of timber in the area no doubt contributed, but it's also important to understand how important transportation was at the time. These logs were large, heavy, and bulky. The easiest means of transport was by water, followed by rail. Log trucks hauling on roads was the most challenging.

With a lake the size of Lake Sawyer, the Neukirchens were able to substantially increase the total logging area accessible. Rather than be limited to the immediate area around the mill to the northeast, the entire southern and southwestern area around the lake could also be tapped.

The mill operated between 1922 and 1934 with some periods of shutdown due to economic conditions in 1927 and early 1928. Employment



ranged from 20 to 30 men producing 40 to 50 thousand board feet per day.

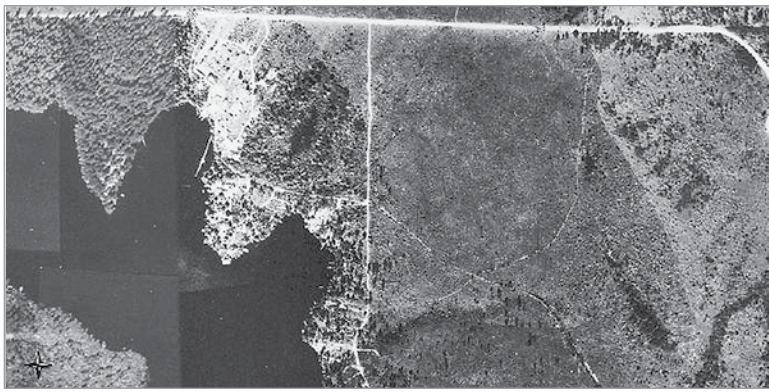
Facilities consisted of one circular head rig saw, an automatic trimmer, dry kilns, and lath mill. Logs up to 60 feet long could be processed. Company logging operations fed the mill with three miles of rail, one geared locomotive, one speeder, two

donkey engines, one high lead logging operation, eight logging trucks, and 20 flat cars. A short spur apparently connected the mill to Northern Pacific's Stampede Pass mainline, making for efficient transport of lumber to market.

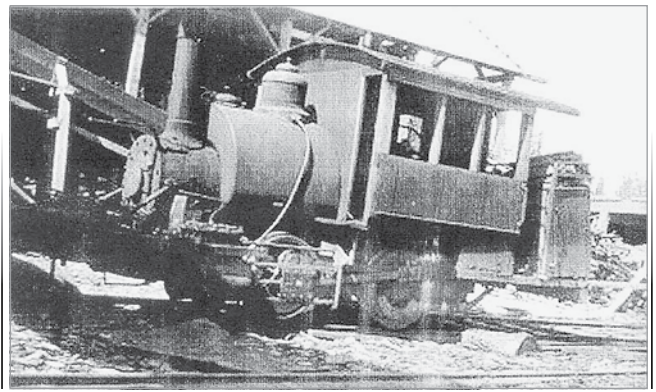


— Craig Goodwin





*This photo shows the mill area and rail lines that supplied the mill to the north. Notice that the rail lines fed a log dump that juts into the lake. The road running east to west is what we currently know as SE 288th, then Lake Sawyer Mill Road.*



*In May 1928, John Neukirchen apparently had a run in with the company's locomotive. Mr. Neukirchen received minor injuries, or so reported the Issaquah Press.*



*Left: Employment at the Lake Sawyer Lumber Company ranged from 20 to 30 men producing 40 to 50 thousand board feet per day. Above: The Lake Sawyer Mill Company log dump, circa 1928, at the southwest end of Lake Sawyer where the Sunrise Resort is today. Right: This photo was taken in 1926 of a logging spar used by the Lake Sawyer Mill Company. Note the man standing on top and the two men dangling from one of the cables. Bottom right: Stacked lumber at the sawmill.*



*Craig Goodwin and his wife Judy have lived on Lake Sawyer since 1981. Goodwin serves on the Black Diamond city council and also publishes the Black Diamond NOW blog at [www.blackdiamondnow.org](http://www.blackdiamondnow.org).*

# Two constants throughout the years

**T**he history of Lake Sawyer just wouldn't be complete without a story on the Lake Sawyer Grocery, a fixture on the north shore since 1946. It's one of those Mom & Pop stores from yesteryear where you can grab a six-pack and a bag of chips and as well as connect with other residents from the lakeside community and the grocery's owner, **Ted Strand**.

Pulling in to the lot one morning I only see a couple of cars. *Good.* Shouldn't be too hard to figure out who's who. Once inside, I see I shouldn't have bothered—the "TED" name tag giving Strand away. As much as the grocery has been a constant for lake side dwellers, so too have been the Strands. Ted and his wife, **Debbie**, have operated the grocery since 1977.

Originally a store and gas station, the grocery started out small, but grew over the years in both directions—first in 1948 and again in 1961. The gas pumps and canopy exited stage left in 1969.

I came prepared for my chat with Strand—historical photos of the grocery in-hand, compliments of Black Diamond Museum Archivist **JoAnne Matsumura**.

"Wow, so that's the store?" said Strand as I lay out the photos. "Look at those old cars."

Strand and his sister, **Mickey**, along with their mother purchased the grocery



Top: The Lake Sawyer Grocery today. Bottom: This June 1948 photo shows the building shortly after it was built when it was a Mobilgas filling station.

from **Al** and **Mary Hagen**.

"I was a silent partner for the first two years because I was only 19 and couldn't have a liquor license," said Strand.

When his mother passed, Strand used his share of the inheritance to buy out his sister to become the sole owner of the grocery.

As the grocery's morning regulars stop in for their caffeine fix, Strand has

the photos out on the counter. "This one's 1948, this one's 1958, and this one's 1961," he explains each in turn. The photos spawn friendly banter between Strand and his customers—from what the lake was like 30 years ago to the old drive-in burger joint next door where Rooter's BBQ is today.

It's the type of conversation that's bred from familiarity. It's also that

## Lake Sawyer site's advantages for air academy pointed out

Seattle Times, December 2, 1950 — Advantages of a 9,200-acre site at Lake Sawyer for the proposed Air Force Academy were pointed out today to a three-man Air Force selection board which toured the suggested site.

**John Nordmark**, King County planning officer, outlined in detail to **Gen. Carl Spaatz**, former Army Air Corps chief of staff; **Lieut. Gen. H.R. Harmon** and **Brig. Gen. Harold L. Clark** of the Air Force, the reasons why Lake Sawyer and the surrounding area would make an ideal site for the academy.

The Lake Sawyer site, 16 airline miles from Seattle, lies at an average elevation of 500 feet. It is east of Kent. Power for the academy could be supplied by Bonneville Power Administration, which has lines crossing the property.

The site has two lakes, Pipe and Sawyer, offering recreational advantages. In addition, a two-mile long air field could be constructed there.



Top: As this photo shows, the building's "war brick" was replaced by siding in 1958. Middle: A canceled check from 1952. Bottom: In 1961 the building has grown considerably.

personal touch that's so rare in today's hectic world.

— Ken Jensen

The Lake Sawyer Grocery is located at 29036 216th Ave SE. Ted Strand, pictured at right, was the Black Diamond Business Owner of the Year in 2009. He anchors the morning shift (4:30 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday).



# Lawsuit leaves a lasting legacy on lake



**H**ave you ever wondered why Lake Sawyer has a weir at the outlet to Covington Creek?

**PICTURES**  
*from the*  
**PAST**



**CRAIG GOODWIN**

In the 1940s, lake discharge was a natural outlet with logs, brush, or even a beaver dam controlling flows and lake levels. A real estate developer, **Vern Cole Realty**, wanted

to reclaim part of the lower “boot” of the lake for additional lots. To do this, though, would require lowering the level of the lake. Therefore, Vern Cole Realty removed these natural discharge structures and the lake level fell.

What Vern Cole Realty neglected to do was to involve the property owners on the rest of the lake.

In a court case in the 1950s, **Mary Burnett** and the Lake Sawyer property owners brought suit against Vern Cole. As we now understand it, Vern Cole lost the suit and was required to build a new man-made barrier to replace the natural barrier previously destroyed.

Hence, we now have the weir.

Not only is the weir important to Coho salmon runs that spawn in Ravensdale Creek, but it also serves to help control flooding by regulating discharge flow rates.



— Craig

*Upper left: A recent photo of the Lake Sawyer weir—a small overflow dam used to control the lake’s outlet to Covington Creek.*

*As evidenced by photos provided by Jack Sperry, flooding is not a potential problem to be ignored. Top: Sperry’s cabin in the winter of 1946 during heavy flooding. Bottom: Sperry’s cabin in the spring of 1947 after the floodwaters subsided.*

# Donations

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

## In memory of:

**Walter Clark,**

*by Jack & Susie Thompson and Joe & Eileen Zumek*

**Tom Evans,**

*by Ramon & Jiovina Kravagna, Lynda Maks, and Jack & Susie Thompson*

**Leasha Tyerman Janet,**

*by Lynda Maks*

**Pauline Kombol,**

*by the Keith Hamilton family, Carl & Georgia Falk, Richard & Sally Pierotti, Darryl & Norine McCauley, Palmer Coking Coal Co., Don & Lynn Mason, Lynda Maks, Mary Kell, Jurt Anderson & Anne Kreamer, Alice Morris, Byron & Janie Parkinson, Michael Royston & Leah Grant, the Gail Kuzaro family and George & Nancy Kuzaro, Sheri McKee, Nancy Moore & Kira Hendrickson, Steve & Paula Moergeli, Gregory & Cecelia Morris, William J. Kombol, Joe & Nadine Silvestri & family, Susan & Stuart Snyder, Fred & Patty Weston, George Kupets, Jerold & Gloria Thompson, Gary & Tanya Grant and Beverly Peterson.*

**Bill Parkin Jr.,**

*by Elsie Parkin*

**Matt & Hannah Starwich,**

*by Paula Perkins*

## Archive preservation:

*Marsha Mott*

*Donald De Young*

## Margarini's 50th wedding anniversary:

*JoAnne Matsumura*

## General fund:

*Kathie Bibeau*

*Carolyn Herrera*

*K-C Food Corporation*

*Ruby & Betty Lamantea*

*Julianne McNeeley*

*Beth Van Buskirk*

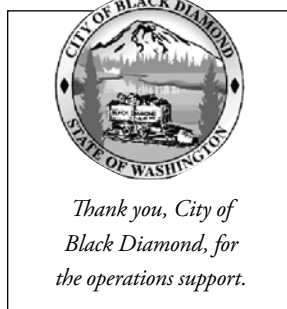
*David & Marjory Velthausen*

## Newsletter fund:

*Don Botts*

*Pat & Susan Noon*

*Ron & Eileen Wyke*



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.

# Upcoming events

## April 17 membership meeting

The historical society will be giving away a door prize at the membership meeting—an Easter basket filled with items donated by local businesses, to be exact—to one lucky attendee.

Proceeds will be used toward the Hospitality Fund, which allows volunteers to send greeting cards to society members who are recovering from an injury or illness or who have lost a loved one, and for special birthdays.

Tickets will be available for \$1 at the museum on April 17, beginning at noon. Ticket holders must be present to win.

General membership meetings are open to the public.

## June 4 Welsh Day

It's not too early to circle June 4 on your calendar for Welsh Day at the museum. Past President **Brian Parry** of the Puget Sound Welsh Association will

be our guest speaker with a presentation on the history and language of Wales and a short slide show of the Welsh in Washington state.

Refreshments will be served.



**CULTURE**  
KING COUNTY LODGING TAX

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

# In memoriam

*Gone but not forgotten*

## Leasha Tyerman Janet, a

Society member and frequent contributor, was born April 16, 1921, in Ladysmith, British Columbia, and passed away January 16, 2011. Leasha was a “coal miner’s daughter,” growing up in Black Diamond and graduating with 9 other classmates in 1940. She was a member of the Black Diamond High School Alumni Association.



Leasha was preceded in death by her son David in 1965 and her husband Ernest Janet in 2001. She is survived by daughter Sharon, son Ernie, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Her happy spirit will always be remembered.

## Pauline Lucile Kombol,

a lifetime society member, passed away on January 24, 2011, at the age of 83. Pauline, of Welsh ancestry, was born March 31, 1927, to John H. and Nina Marie Morris in Auburn, Wash. She lived with her family in the coal-mining town of Durham before they moved when she was six years old.



She graduated from Enumclaw High School in 1945 and married Jack Kombol in 1950. Pauline and Jack had five children.

Pauline served the society as a docent for some time in the earlier years, and was a frequent help as needed to Founders Carl and Ann Steiert. The society remembers well when Pauline joined other Welsh

descendants of Black Diamond when they helped to celebrate the society’s first Welsh Heritage Day Celebration in 1999. The stories unfolded, we learned and listened to their experiences. We visited the Black Diamond Cemetery with these descendants and learned more.

Pauline was preceded in death by her infant daughter, Paula Jean, husband Jack, and is survived by sons, Barry and Bill, daughters Jeanmarie, and Danica, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Pauline was interred at the Enumclaw Memorial Park on February 5, 2011.

## Margaret B. Morganti Vernarelli,

a lifetime society member since 1982, passed away on March 7, 2011, at the age of 95. She was born to Joseph and Carolina Morganti on August 26, 1915, in Black Diamond. Joseph was employed as a coal miner.



Margaret was a graduate of Black Diamond High School, class of 1935, and was a member of the Black Diamond High School Alumni Association.

In 1938 she married Romeo Vernarelli, and in 1940 they had a son, Romeo Jr. Romeo and Margaret moved to Beacon Hill in Seattle in 1945 and began a new life. Romeo Jr. passed away at the age of 15 during surgery in 1955.

Margaret became well known at Vito’s Restaurant in Seattle, owned by Vito and Molly Santoro, where she was employed as assistant chef. She became head chef and made the cannelloni that became famous to the regulars who patronized Vito’s—from brokers and lawyers to senators and doctors. After Romeo retired as a

cement worker he became Margaret’s assistant chef.

Margaret retired in 1994 when Vito sold the restaurant. She then spent time in personal pursuits, yet continued using her cooking skills of special Italian sauces and pies.

The society will always be appreciative of the artifacts and contributions Margaret so generously gave.

Margaret was preceded in death by her husband Romeo, son Romeo Jr., and brothers John and Ruelle Morganti. She is survived by her niece Ruellene Morganti, nephew John Morganti, great-nephew Mike Morganti, nephew Gino Picini, niece Flavia Meyer, and godsons Jacob and Joey Schemnitzer.

## Thanks for the memories

### Mary Ceteznik Paterson

January 1, 1916 – January 16, 2011

*Born in Black Diamond*

### Ruth Marie Hutson

June 22, 1925 – January 4, 2011

*Mother of Daniel A. Hutson*

### George Potocnik

March 7, 1912 – March 10, 2011

*Born in Black Diamond*

## Be our guest

# 574

**Number of guests visiting  
the museum in the first  
quarter of 2011.**

# Welcome new and renewing members

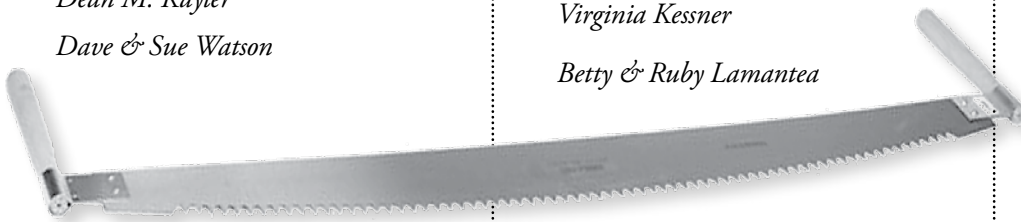
The Black Diamond Historical Society now has 303 members. We are pleased to welcome our newest members this quarter:

*Debby Barnes*  
*William Cosgrove*  
*Troy Deady*  
*Linnie Griffin*  
*Dean M. Kayler*  
*Dave & Sue Watson*

We would like to thank the following people for renewing their memberships this quarter:

*William Bisyak*  
*Roy Callero Jr.*  
*Beth Deady*  
*Michael Deicher*  
*Cheryl Dubbs*  
*Gale & Arlene Hendrickson*  
*Carolyn Herrera*  
*Becky Jack*  
*Virginia Kessner*  
*Betty & Ruby Lamantea*

*Julianne McNeeley*  
*Marsha Mott*  
*Pat & Susan Noon*  
*Janie Parkinson*  
*Scott & Mary Peterson*  
*Terry Picini*  
*Ship & Laura Shipley*  
*Mike & Cyndi Smith*  
*Johna Thomson*  
*Louis & Kay Traverso*  
*David & Marjory Velthausen*  
*Keith C. & Judy Watson*  
*Fred & Patty Weston*  
*Ron & Eileen Wyke*  
*Palmer Coking Coal Co.*



## Membership and Renewal Form



Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Eve Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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"/>
Business/Group	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lifetime Individual	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletter Fund Donation	\$ _____	
Other Donation	\$ _____	
Total Enclosed	\$ _____	

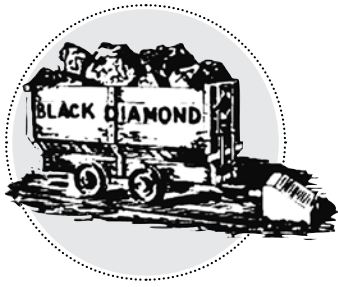
New  
 Renewal  
 Cash  
 Check  
 Ck # \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable to: **BDHS**  
 Mail to:  
**Black Diamond Historical Society**  
**PO Box 232**  
**Black Diamond, WA 98010**

BDHS is a 501(c)(3) Non Profit Organization (TIN 51-0170304)

*For our records, on all checks please note purpose of check. (Dues, Donation, Memorial, etc.)*

(Museum Use Only) Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Posted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (rev. 12/01/10)



## Black Diamond Historical Society

P.O. Box 232 • Black Diamond, WA 98010-0232

*Address Service Requested*

NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

BLACK DIAMOND, WA

PERMIT NO. 17



*Do you like Black Diamond history?*

Come join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter, and our blog!

[www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory](http://www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory)

[www.twitter.com/BD\\_History](http://www.twitter.com/BD_History)

[www.blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com](http://www.blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com)

And make sure to tell your friends, too.

## On the grounds

Thanks to donations from **Lou Draghi**, **Rosalie Draghi Murdock**, and **Mary Ann Draghi Lind**, the *Draghi Coal Car* is back on the tracks and looks fantastic!

Special thanks to **Gomer Evans** and his crew for installing new boards, cleaning and painting the hardware, and putting it all back together, and to the **Palmer Coking Coal Company** for providing the stoking coal.

*Donating your time or money is a great way to help preserve history.*



*"I used to load that car with mine timbers, lagging, dynamite, tools, and other supplies needed in the mine," said Lou Draghi. "Often I'd ride the car down into the mine along with another worker to start the day's work. I only had to work 4 hours a day in the summer and walked out at lunch with the others. I didn't like coal mining, but liked the money and had a nice car."*