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*Jack Sperry snapped this photo in 1949 of his son, also Jack, and neighbor Linda Johnson sitting on KCFD 17's first fire truck near Lake Sawyer.*

*King County Fire Protection District No. 17*

# Fire department and its 1947 Ford to the rescue

**J**ANUARY 5, 1959, 4:15 A.M. “We almost lost the town that day,” recalled **Keith Timm, Sr.**, a former chief of King County Fire Protection District No. 17, based in Black Diamond. **Joe Zumek** and BDHS Treasurer **Don Malgarini**, both former volunteer firemen, nodded in agreement at a recent gathering at the Black

Diamond Museum.

All three were on the scene of a massive blaze at the Black Diamond Presbyterian Church on Lawson Street that fateful morning—now more than 50 years ago—that also damaged the town’s library and three nearby homes. The site is now home to the Black Diamond Police Department.

“The wind was blowing 40 miles per hour, it was snowing, and burning shingles were blowing all the

way down to Morganville,” said Timm. “It was somethin’ else.” The good news was that no one was injured.

“At about 5 o’clock it looked as if the whole town would go up in smoke,” Chief **Thomas Zumek** told the *Enumclaw Herald* at the time. “Snow and wind obscured





**BULLETIN**  
SPRING 2012

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](mailto: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)

# Fires were a scary part of life

## A MESSAGE from the EDITOR



**KEN  
JENSEN**

At the turn of the last century, fire—unlike today—was a common threat, especially in isolated rural areas without adequate fire protection, like Black Diamond. So in light of the historical society’s recent acquisition of the town’s first fire truck, the 1947 Ford shown on the cover, this quarter’s *Black Diamond Bulletin* pays tribute to the early days of Fire District No. 17 and its volunteers.

That’s not to say that the “predecessor” to the fire district, the Pacific Coast Coal Co., didn’t take fires seriously. As reported in the *Pacific Coast Bulletin* on August 13, 1925, the company did what it could: “Two fire alarm gongs, one at the hose cart house at the corner of **Frederickson’s** residence, and the other at the hose cart house between the barber shop and the drug store, have recently been installed for the protection of the camp. In case of fire these two gongs should be sounded immediately as a general alarm.”

It’s just the methods weren’t very *sophisticated*.

Fires were such a common occurrence before the formation of the fire district that this report from the July 9, 1925 *Pacific Coast Bulletin* was just one of many:

.....  
*ONE MISHAP MARRED the otherwise perfect Fourth of July celebration at Black Diamond. This happened about midnight when fire was discovered in the house occupied by Mrs. G. L. Eten and family. The family was at the dance at the time, and before the neighbors were aroused, the house was a mass of flames and beyond saving. What caused the fire is not known. The house and contents were a total loss.*  
.....

There was also a question of leadership in town. As **Howard “Jiggs” Hoyt** pointed out in his 1990 book, *The Fire Districts of King County*, “A company town is without any leaders other than company officials who let the villages look out for the communities’ welfare.”

And following the coal company’s departure, our “villagers” did just that—voting to form Fire District No. 17 in 1943. Its methods were still primitive by today’s standards, but the district had the men and equipment to get the job done.

Today we take fire protection for granted. And for that security and peace of mind, we owe a debt of gratitude to those early volunteer firefighters of Fire District No. 17.

— Ken

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# Something very exciting happened in January ...

**T**he 1947 Ford fire truck that served Black Diamond for many years was found! The board of directors voted to purchase the truck and with the help of many volunteers, have already begun its restoration.

## A MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT



**KEITH  
WATSON**

The truck had been out in the open for many years before its owner decided to sell it for scrap. **Joe Androsko**, one of our members, took it upon himself to rescue it from the junk yard, paying for the truck out of his own pocket in hopes that the Black Diamond Historical Society would want to save it.

Joe's very perceptive ... of course we want to preserve the fire truck as a part of Black Diamond's history for present and future generations to see and love.

The weather and nearly 70 years have taken its toll on the fire truck, but there was a surprising amount of gear left on it. Those items include the red lights, hose, ladder, radio, gauges, and a wonderful body that was built by the Howard-Cooper Corporation of Portland, Oregon. Even the siren still works!

The truck had been out in the open for many years before its owner decided to sell it for scrap. **Joe Androsko**, one of our members, took it upon



*Above: Gomer Evans, BDHS director and former mayor of Black Diamond; Keith Timm, Sr., former chief of Fire District No. 17; and Don Malgarini, BDHS treasurer and former firefighter. (Photo: Keith Watson.)*

*Left: Joe Zumek, former firefighter with KCFD 17. Right: Joe Androsko (left), who rescued the truck, talks over the restoration with Joe Zumek. (Photos: Ken Jensen.)*

The cab has already been replaced and the engine needs a rebuild. The wiring harness needs replacing and so does the window glass in the cab. The cost has started to escalate the deeper we dig into the project.

Do we need help with funding? That's a big **YES!**

So please consider a donation to the Black Diamond Historical

**PRESIDENT**, continued next page

**PRESIDENT,**

*continued from page 3*

Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It might even help you on your income tax. (Please check with your financial advisor.)

And not only do we need funding, we're looking for photos of the fire truck when it was active. We're also on the hunt for a missing fire axe, fire

extinguishers, and many other items that you former volunteers out there may know about.

But the fire truck restoration is just one of the many projects the historical society is undertaking.

Another is the memorial to coal miners.

What we envision is a life-size bronze coal miner statue on a granite

pedestal. The names of the coal miners who lost their lives in the mines could then be listed on the pedestal along with the names of coal miners and families who were instrumental in the history of Black Diamond and other mining towns in our state.

The statue would be lighted at night and be visible from Baker Street and Railroad Avenue. The area would be paved with brick pavers with the names of folks who donate to the memorial.

Currently we're in the design stage of the memorial. You can imagine how excited people are when they hear about the project. The sculpture will most likely show a miner in action with his pick. We have the ideal spot in front of the museum to feature the memorial.

Your ideas are welcome and important to the statue committee. Feel free to send them to us: Black Diamond Historical Society, P.O. Box 232, Black Diamond, WA 98010.

**Upcoming events.** The Black Diamond School Reunion will be Wednesday, May 30, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Black Diamond Community Center. There will be lunch, entertainment, and a raffle just before dessert is served. The price for the event is \$10 and you can e-mail me at [kcwdoc@comcast.net](mailto:kcwdoc@comcast.net) or call me at 360-886-0778 if you'd like to attend.

**Upcoming events:**

**April 22, General Membership Meeting at the museum, 1 p.m.**  
*The speaker will be Julie Koler, chief King County preservation officer.*

**May 30, Black Diamond School Reunion at the community center, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.**

**June 2, Welsh Heritage Day at the museum, 12–3 p.m.**

**July 7, Miners' Day on Railroad Avenue. In addition to the street fair and booths, there will be two live bands throughout the day, a chili challenge, 5K run, and lots of displays by the historical society.**

And don't forget to mark your calendars for Welsh Heritage Day, Saturday, June 2, at the museum. We celebrate Welsh Heritage Day as our "founders day" for the Welsh and Italians who came with the Black



*Other communities have been successful in creating memorials to its mining history. This photo, and the one of the next page, should provide us with inspiration.*



Diamond Coal Company to start our town. But Black Diamond had people from all over the world. In 1930, more than 30 different languages were spoken here.

We'll have a special guest speaker, **Brian Parry**, who is the past-

president of the Puget Sound Welsh Association. His presentation, "The Legacy of Welsh Coal Mining," will start at 1 p.m. Immediately following the presentation we'll have a door prize and some refreshments. Be sure to show up at noon for socializing.

**Sad news.** One of our board members, **Harry Berry**, passed away in February. We will miss him and his positive, helpful attitude. He was the chairman of the Education and Outreach Committee and in charge of our school program. He had a keen eye for ideas to help reach out to our community to educate and encourage people to learn about the history of the area.

Harry graduated from the Black Diamond High School in 1942 and was a member of the Black Diamond

School Reunion Committee. Harry was a very active type of person and well liked by all. He is gone, but not forgotten!

Lastly, I'm sure all of you realize how much work goes into the writing and editing of the *Black Diamond Bulletin*. I think **Ken Jensen** has done a wonderful job. If you have photos

*This granite waterfall memorial wall is similar to one the society is considering.*

that you could share, please let us know, as we can always use more. The old adage is indeed true: "A picture is worth a thousand words."

Thanks for your support!



— Keith



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

## On our grounds



PHOTO: ROBERT DOBSON

*The museum's fire hose cart house was built in 1990 to resemble the ones for storing the town's four hose carts used at the turn of the last century. The hose cart inside was a donation from the Black Diamond Fire Department. Carl Steiert, the co-founder of the historical society, was one of the first volunteer firefighters for Black Diamond.*

## FIRE DISTRICT 17

*continued from page 1*

our vision and made fire-fighting extremely difficult.”

The conflagration apparently started in the church’s furnace room.

“That was such a hot fire,” remembered BDHS Co-Founder **Carl Steiert** in *Black Diamond: Mining the Memories*. “It was lucky there was snow on the ground.... Some of the buildings across the street got so hot, it cracked their windows.”

For Malgarini, the night is forever seared into his memory.

“I lived in Morganville, and I stuck my head out the window when I heard the siren blowin’ and I could see the glow in the sky already. That’s what kind of start it had before we ever got there.”

All that stood between the inferno

and the safety of the town—that is, until help arrived from neighboring Maple Valley—were Fire District No. 17’s twenty brave volunteer firemen and its 1947 Ford fire truck.

Can you image? The city was almost turned to ashes just one month before it became an “official” city.

**“Fires were scary. They blew the mine whistle first. Then there was a siren on the Confectionery. It would blow. Oh gosh, everybody would scramble and go.” — Carl Steiert**

Before the district was formed in 1943, fires were all too common.

“Like all isolated towns, big or

small, there is a common enemy: ‘FIRE,’” wrote **Howard “Jiggs” Hoyt** in his preeminent 1990 book, *The Fire Districts of King County*. And Black Diamond fit the bill in the early days.

The town’s original company store, located next to the current Black Diamond Bakery, burned to the ground in 1907. “They tried to pull it over with a locomotive, so the fire wouldn’t spread,” said Steiert in *Mining the Memories*. “They put a cable around it to try to collapse it but they couldn’t pull it.” In the end it, the store, the butcher’s shop, and two other houses were destroyed.

Black Diamond’s wooden row houses were built very close together, a common practice in most company towns. Fire, with the addition of a stiff breeze, could quickly spread with no way to stop it.

“All we had was a bucket. That was your fire protection,” recalled **Albert**

## Morganville fire leaves an indelible impression on David McCrindle

**David McCrindle**, a volunteer fireman in Enumclaw for more than 40 years, recently returned to the scene of a fire from his youth in November 1955. The grandson of **Alice Davies**, who owned the Confectionery across the street from the museum, McCrindle and his wheelchair-bound mother **Hannah** were awakened by smoke and flames in their Morganville home at 5 a.m.

“That was my room,” said McCrindle as he pointed to the upstairs bedroom window of the now rebuilt home.

He was then just a 15-year-old

sophomore at Enumclaw High School when he carried his mother from the blaze, suffering burns to his feet in the process. His mother’s arms were scorched in the fire. The cause of the blaze was believed to be a short-circuited wall outlet.

Former Fire Chief **Keith Timm, Sr.**, remembered the morning vividly, too. “We got that sucker out,” he said, “but afterwards, when I tried to go to work, all the hoses were frozen solid. We had to leave them down there.”

According to a local newspaper account, the family lost everything they owned, except what they were wearing.



PHOTO: ROBERT DOBSON

**Garrett** in *Mining the Memories*.

According to **Ann Steiert**, “In those early days when the fires got away they would blow up a house or two to get a cleared area to stop the fire.” On a windy night in 1927, five houses on Main Street—now the site of the of the county’s Rainier View senior housing adjacent to the Enumclaw-Black Diamond Road—burned to the ground. Only dynamite stopped the fire’s advance.

In neighboring Franklin, the townspeople weren’t so lucky: A 1913 fire destroyed a huge portion of the town. All that remained of the coal-mining town’s main “thoroughfare” was the home of **Dr. Tate Mason**—the co-founder of Seattle’s Virginia Mason Medical Center. And it was spared only because it was built above and away from the rest of the homes.

Around 1910 Black Diamond did acquire “a couple of hand-drawn hose carts with several hundred feet of cotton hose,” wrote Hoyt in *The Fire Districts of King County*. But fire response was more or less left up to the community at large.

If you showed up to the scene of a fire, you were dubbed a fireman. “Anybody would crawl up on the roof. Everybody hollering and giving everybody instructions or giving them heck about what to do,” recalled Carl Steiert.

And even when the firemen would arrive with one of the four hose carts in tow, water pressure in town, or the lack of, was always a problem.

“When you got there and got the hose on the fire hydrant, which was just a pipe sticking out of the ground, maybe just a little water came out,” remembered Carl Steiert in *Mining*



*In the 1947 Ford are Charles Kravagna, Jules Dal Santo, and Carl Steiert. In the second unit are Tom Zumek, Jim Swope, and Frank Zumek. The fireman were returning from a practice run near St. Barbara’s Catholic Church on Lawson Hill in January 1954.*

*the Memories*. “They always had to run up to old Mine 14 and start up a pump. Well, sometimes they’d get some pressure and sometimes they wouldn’t.”

It wasn’t until 1943 that the townspeople petitioned to form its own fire district.

The townspeople voted to form Fire District No. 17 in a landslide decision, passed 86 to 0 in favor of incorporation. The first order of business in 1944 was “to upgrade the town’s leaky water system and standpipes, wrote Hoyt. Next up was the acquisition of a fire truck, a purchase that would have to wait until after the war.

The first fire commissioners—according to **Jules Dal Santo**, who wrote the introduction to the 1979

cookbook, *Hometown Recipes: Fire District 17*—were **Frank Horne** of Lake Sawyer and **Evan “Eve” Thomas** (owner of the Black Diamond Garage and Stage Co.) and **John Lombardini** of Black Diamond.

Dal Santo, a long-time fireman with the district, retired after 31 years of service.

Tom Zumek was the first fire chief. He would serve in this capacity until 1963.

In about June 1947 the district purchased its first fire truck—a 1947 Ford with a 500-gallon tank—which was none too soon. Earlier in the year the wheels fell off one of the carts on the way to a building fire, Tom Zumek told the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* in 2002. “Firefighters

**FIRE DISTRICT 17**, *continued next page*



*This photo is from the Presbyterian Church's dedication on October 17, 1914. After the fire, a new church—which still stands just east of its original location on Lawson Street—was completed in time for Christmas 1960.*



*On January 5, 1959, fire destroyed the Black Diamond Presbyterian Church and damaged the town's library and three residences. (Photo: David McCrindle)*

## FIRE DISTRICT 17

*continued from page 7*

dragged the hoses the rest of the way and saved part of the building.”

But there was no place to store the truck, so the fire district parked it in a garage next to King's Tavern which, until just recently, was the home of Baker Street Books. In wasn't until 1950 that the fire station on Baker Street across from Black Diamond Elementary—today's Fire Station #99—was built. Funding for the fire district was always a challenge.

“We, the people of the district, donated money and held dances,” recalled Dal Santo. “I remember the big dance that was held at the Lake Wilderness Dance Hall owned by the late **Gaffney brothers**. It was a great success. We also held bingo in the old Masonic Hall for a long time.”

The siren was on top of the Confectionery, which is now Black Diamond Pizza & Deli. Owner **Alice**



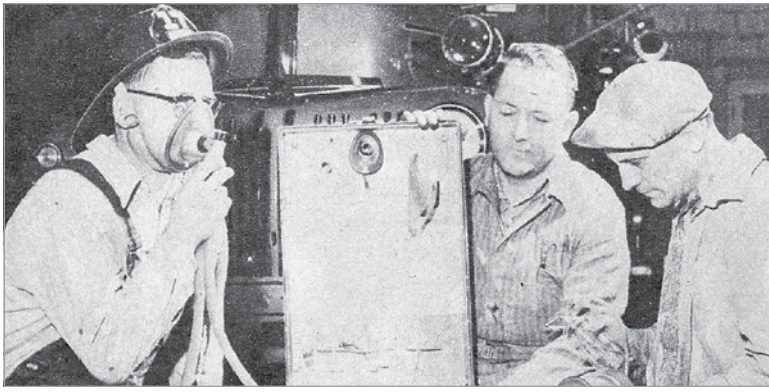
**Davis** “would turn the siren on and that's when all hell broke loose,” wrote Dal Santo. “Firemen came running from every direction. She would give us directions to locate the fire.” The siren today is on display on the museum grounds after a recent restoration under the direction of BDHS Director **Gomer Evans**.

“In those days, we would go to Maple Valley, to Cumberland, to

Selleck. You name it, we went there,” Dal Santo said. “We saved a lot of lives even without all the fancy equipment.”

Today fire protection for Black Diamond and the surrounding area is provided by King Country Fire District No. 44 (Mountain View Fire & Rescue/Black Diamond Fire Department). Fire District No. 17 was consolidated into Fire

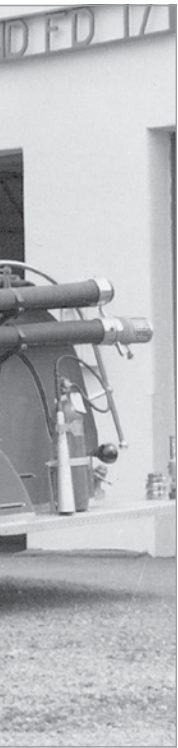




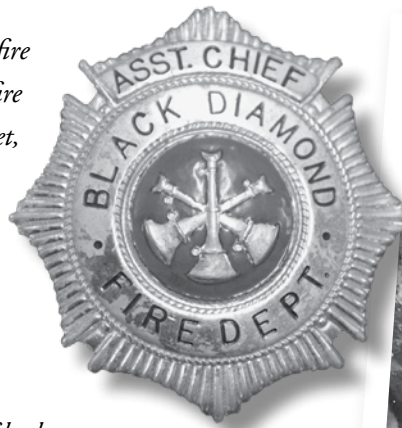
*This 1954 photo shows Jules Dal Santo, Carl Steiert, and Jasper (Jazz) Kravagna demonstrating the use of a resuscitator, inhalator, and aspirator. The Fire Department donated this piece of equipment to the museum some years ago.*



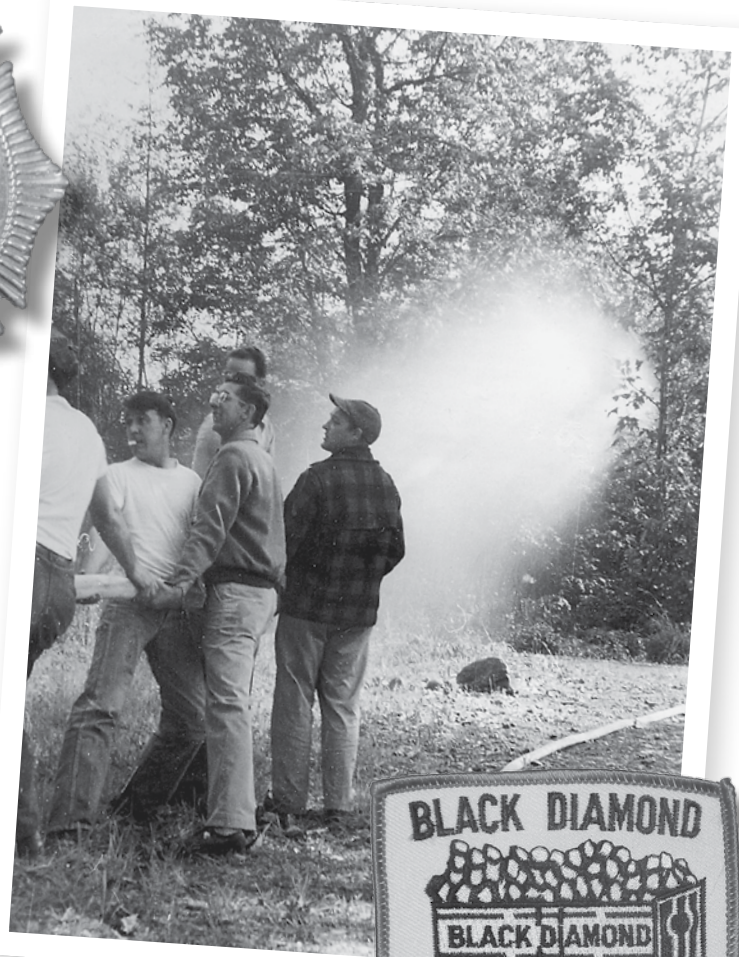
*The 1947 Ford that the historical society is restoring is a survivor. The paint still looks pretty good for being almost 70 years old! (Photo: Ken Jensen)*



*Left: The 1947 Ford fire truck in front of the fire station on Baker Street, now Fire Station #99, in 1969. (Photo courtesy of Keith Timm, Sr.)*



*Clockwise from top: An assistant fire chief badge on display at the museum. (Photo: Bob Dobson.) Volunteer firefighters practice with their equipment at Lake Sawyer. From left to right: Joe Zumek (in white T-shirt), Frank Gurgurich, and Tom Zumek. (Photo: Jack Sperry.) Shoulder patch for Fire District No. 17 (year unknown).*



District No. 44 in April 2006, ending nearly 60 years of service. But Fire District No. 44 too has a long history, as it was established January 6, 1953. Its present-day boundaries—encompassing 70 square miles—include unincorporated areas of Auburn, Kent, and Enumclaw in southeast King County and the City of Black Diamond.

If you'd like to learn more about

King Country Fire District No. 44 (Mountain View Fire & Rescue/Black Diamond Fire Department), you can visit its web site at [www.kcfd44.org](http://www.kcfd44.org) or its Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/KCFD44](http://www.facebook.com/KCFD44).



— Ken Jensen



# The community's family affair

*The mining town of Black Diamond is steamed up over local lads who wear helmets bearing the numeral "17." They are volunteers in the community fire department, designated officially as King County Fire Protection District No. 17. Their enthusiasm is ablaze and the conflagration is spreading. Benefit dances are receiving generous support. Nearly half the crew of 22 consists of brothers in four families—Zumek, Dal Santo, Maks, and Rossi.*

**The Seattle Times, January 3, 1954**

**F**rom the "bucket brigade" to the newest shiny fire engine, Black Diamond's fraternity of volunteer firefighters is a family affair.

Whether or not one was an "official" volunteer firefighter when the town's church bells rang, a long whistle blew at the mine, or when

## A PIONEER *family* ALBUM



**JOANNE  
MATSUMURA**

family affair, where everybody helped each other!

The bucket brigade gave way to the hose cart with heavy cotton hoses stored in an old shed.

Designated volunteers tied the cart to the back of an automobile and raced at unknown speeds to the fire. The automobile and hose cart didn't always arrive at the fire together, however, as the cart sometimes broke loose.

**Alice Davies** sounded the siren at the Confectionery, everyone stopped what they were doing and came running.

Only in Black Diamond would you find a community's



The firefighters won many of the battles, but lost a few, too. That's the tough stuff of which firefighters are made!

Yesteryear, as in today, volunteer firefighters serve any and all other emergencies. **Jules Dal Santo's** tough love in warning the public about the dangers of plunging in the Green River for a swim on a hot summer's day still holds true. Today's firefighters still have the grim task of recovering someone from the river. "Safety First" is as good a slogan today as it was during coal mining days.

And when it came to getting the equipment and protective gear needed, those volunteer firefighters knew just what to do. They held dances, carnivals, played games, had bake and craft sales, and—with the help of **George Eipper**, then the owner of the Black Diamond Bakery—raffled large cakes to help fill the coffers for what was needed.

That's called "spirit" in a community's family affair.

With their new equipment, these volunteer firefighters began weekly gatherings to educate themselves in its use to better serve the community



*Above: The first fire commissioners and some members of the Fire District No. 17. Back row: Commissioner John Lombardini, Ior Davies, Carl Steiert, Joe Zumek, and Frank Zumek. Front row: Commissioner Angelo "Deno" Mariotti, Tom Zumek, Commissioner Evan Thomas, and Larry Parkin.*

*Left: Two unknown children play with one of the four fire carts in town.*

*Right: Alice Davies would sound the siren by turning a knob in a box fastened to a telephone pole. The siren is now on the museum's grounds.*

saving lives in times of emergency.

Some of these volunteers were young high school students who lent a hand and served alongside the others in their duty. Many, if not all, of the volunteers in 1954 became a part of Black Diamond's First-Aid Fire and Rescue team.

The need for a fire station was on the drawing board, too. So these hearty volunteer firefighters got busy with more of the same—dances and games.

They also went door to door making a gentle request to each home to provide \$5, then a lot of money.



As Former Chief **Keith Timm, Sr.** remembered, one miner said he didn't have that kind of money to give. But the community residents did give, and the fire station on Baker Street became a reality. And the rest is, as they say, history.

Black Diamond's community family affair—something we hope never changes.



—JoAnne

## Volunteers Plan Carnival

**Seattle Post-Intelligencer, March 28, 1948** — *Volunteer firemen of the newly organized department of King County Fire Protection District No. 17 will stage their first annual dance and carnival Friday night. Owners of the Lake Wilderness New Dance Hall have donated use of the hall for the frolic.*

*Proceeds will be used to purchase a pulmotor and fire hose for the fire department and helmets and other fire-fighting clothing for the firemen.*

*The volunteer department was recently organized by commissioners of District No. 17 and will have its headquarters at Black Diamond. A new high pressure Howard Cooper fire engine was purchased at a cost of \$7,500 with money raised by public subscription in Lake Sawyer, Black Diamond, Morganville, and vicinity.*

*More than 30 young men of Black Diamond and Morganville have volunteered for service. About 15 or 20 will be selected from the group by the commissioners.*

*Arrangements have been made to accommodate more than 2,000 persons at the dance, carnival. Aprons handmade by women of the district will be sold at the linen booth. Food will be served and there will be games.*

# Final chapter: Baker Street Books closes

**A**fter 17 years Baker Street Books, the museum's next-door neighbor, is closing its doors this April. Not only will Railroad Avenue be without its book store but Black Diamond's also losing a community treasure: **Bob Charles** and his literary love of books.

The book store building—the scene of many businesses over the decades, including a general store, pool hall, and King's Tavern on the north side; a butcher shop, a Ford dealership, and the Diamond Stage on the south—sat unoccupied for eight years before Charles set up shop in 1995.

He originally shared the space with a local antique dealer, but when the dealer left, Charles decided to expand.

"I thought I should go for it," he said.

Charles was always willing to get just the book you needed. He offered trades, too, and would buy your books outright so that you could buy a new stack.

A proud Scot, Charles had this to say in a *Seattle Times* interview in 2007: "I love my heritage and people have come in looking for books on Scotland or information if they're planning a vacation out there. I'm always happy to help them."

Baker Street Books was more than just a book store. Its warm and cozy atmosphere and big comfortable chairs were inviting to readers, and Charles' jazz nights made for a relaxing place to hang out on Fridays.

Amazon certainly doesn't offer those amenities!

And Charles was more than just the man behind the counter.

In 2007 he was honored with the City of Black Diamond's first Business Owner of the Year Award during its



PHOTO: ROBERT DOBSON

Labor Day Celebration festivities.

Thanks, Bob, for adding your chapter to the history of Railroad Avenue. You will be sorely missed.

We wish you well and may you go fishing whenever and wherever you want. ☒

— JoAnne Matsumura

## In our community



PHOTO: DOUG CLARK

*Don Mason, assisted by Brandon Jensen, shows an oversize photo at our second Franklin tour on March 4 of the town's main "thoroughfare" before a devastating fire in 1913. Once again the weather cooperated during both tours for the second year in a row. Nearly 300 people were in attendance between the two dates. Thanks to Doug Clark, one of the Franklin visitors, for this photo.*

# Now & Then: Black Diamond baseball

**L**ong before my interest in Black Diamond history, I've always been fascinated with the local baseball history of the Seattle Indians, Rainiers, and Pilots.

While reading *Rain Check: Baseball in the Pacific Northwest*, I ran across a 1929 *Pacific Coast Bulletin* photo of "Diamond's Shock Troupe." The caption read that "**Bill Cushing** is certainly leading a smooth working, snappy bunch of socking sluggers."

That got me to thinking: What if I were to get my very own replica jersey from Black Diamond's baseball heyday? As you can see, I did just that—ordering mine from Ebbets Field Flannels, [www.ebbets.com](http://www.ebbets.com), in Seattle's Pioneer Square.

— Ken Jensen



*At left, Ken Jensen shows off his replica jersey. On the right is Bill Cushing, the long-time manager of Black Diamond's Pacific Coast Coal Company baseball team. It's said that Black Diamond's teams could hold their own against Seattle's Pacific Coast League Indians and, later, the champion Rainiers. (Photo: Robert Dobson)*

537

Number of guests visiting  
the museum during winter  
2011/2012.

## Be our guest

**D**uring the months of December, January, and February, the museum had 537 guests. Visitors hailed from seven states—California, Michigan, Montana, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, and, of course, Washington—as well as from Mexico, Scotland, and Wales.

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

“

Very nice museum

Very well done

Awesome collection

Great stuff—thanks  
for your work

Thank you for such a  
nice museum

Unique collection—  
most interesting &  
well displayed

A lot of great artifacts

Always some new  
project done here

The place is amazing

This is my favorite  
museum

Very nice & lots of  
information

Thank you for  
teaching us about  
Black Diamond  
history

Lots of old memories

One of our favorite  
spots

Took me back in time

Coool

Great history—keep  
up the good work

# In memoriam

*Gone but not forgotten*

**H**arry W. Berry began his tenure on the society's board of directors November 1, 2009, serving as the Education Chair. He loved reprising his role as the "train conductor" for children visiting the museum and sharing stories



of growing up in Black Diamond with school groups of all ages and families—especially during our summer children's program.

His concept for an educational brochure about the importance of

coal—how it was used in the past and its future use—was still on the drawing board at the time of his passing. We hope to bring his vision to reality.

Born September 23, 1924, Harry passed away February 3, 2012, at his home in Fircrest, Washington. Harry attended school in Carbonado, Washington, until moving to Black Diamond in 1937. He graduated from Black Diamond High School in 1942, and was a member of the Black Diamond Alumni.

Before graduation, Harry worked at the Diamond Garage on Third Avenue to earn his college tuition. "When [Owner] **Eve Thomas** offered me the job shortly after the opening, I jumped at the chance and began

working there in 1942 as an attendant and helper during my senior year in high school," he wrote in 2005.

"A pleasant diversion was to drive Larson's Limousine for bus passengers to Green River Gorge, Morganville, or Clay Mine. And driving the wrecker on Sunday mornings to pull out those who hit the ditches after a Saturday night drunk was a regular emergency. Funny that it was usually the same two ditches."

Harry's earnings that summer paid for his first year at the University of Washington: \$30 per quarter, including tickets to the football games and the yearbook. "Some of the happiest days of my life were while living in Black Diamond," he said.

He graduated from the UW with an engineering degree and later owned his own business.

Thanks for the memories, Harry. You will be missed!

Harry was preceded in death by his wife **Marjorie** and a brother. He was buried with his wife in Auburn, Washington, and is survived by his brothers, **Mike** and **George**.

# Donations

**W**e wish to thank the following for their generous donations to the Black Diamond Historical Society.

## In memory of:

**Harry Berry,**  
by Steve & Dee Israel,  
Ken & Gwen Jensen,  
JoAnne Matsumura,  
and Joe & Eileen  
Zumek

**Walter Clark,**  
by Joan Clark and Joe  
& Eileen Zumek

**Sonny Kelly,**  
by Joe & Eileen Zumek

**Glee McCauley,**  
by Lynn & JoAnn  
Livengood

**Matt Starwich,**  
by Paula Perkins

**Orville Trover,**  
by Lynda Maks

## Archive preservation:

*Drew Crooks*

*Marsha Mott*

*Colin Page*

*Susan Proffit*

## General fund:

*Donna Marie Bortko*

*Tom & Katherine  
Daniels*

*Andrew & Wilma  
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*Fundraising Action  
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*Catherine Priestley*

*Tony & Tizziana  
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Velthausen*

## Newsletter fund:

*Debbie Evans Barnes*

*Stacey Jones Chisam*

*Jeff Cunningham*

*Jim Hamilton*

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*Pat & Susan Noon*

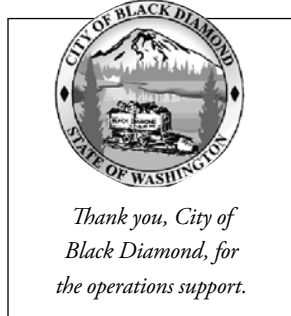
*Margaret Pearce*

## Tours:

*Mary Isham*

**In honor of all  
the kindness Bill  
Bremmeyer has shown  
to his friends &  
neighbors:**

*Brenda Moody*



*Thank you, City of  
Black Diamond, for  
the operations support.*

# Thanks for the memories

## Mary L. Verhonick Ames

July 18, 1918 – February 19, 2012

*Cousin to John Millarich and*

*Anne Millarich Nilsen*

## James "Jimmy" Darby

March 10, 1935 – December 9, 2011

*Brother of Darlene, Darrell,*

*Dee, and Sharon*

## Jacqueline Anne Jassek Hyde

May 13, 1951 – August 12, 2011

*Daughter of Eva L. Johnson Jassek*

## Olive Francis (Lawrence) Parkin

February 4, 1918 – February 19, 2012

*Mother of Rhoda and Jim*

## Orville James Trover

April 19, 1927 – February 11, 2012

*Husband of Elsa Trover*

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 326 members. We are pleased to welcome our newest members this quarter:

Emma L. Barber  
 Kimmie Barnett  
 Steve & Debbie Beck  
 Stacey Chisam  
 Tom & Katherine Daniels  
 Andrew & Wilma Fineberg  
 Gary L. Gorsha  
 Al & Arlene Hall  
 Jim Hamilton  
 Dick & Toni Hansen  
 Ken & Linda Jensen  
 Kim Kuzaro Kleppen  
 Bob & Joni Marsicano  
 Colin S. Page

Enrico Rosato  
 Tony & Tizziana Sivitilli  
 Keith Byron Timm, Sr.  
 Ole Una  
 Doug Wagner  
 Eric & Doris Watson  
 Bill & Jami Wheeler  
 Fran Wold

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

Debby A. Barnes  
 Roy Callero, Jr.  
 James D. Carey  
 Nonie Coby  
 Jeff Cunningham  
 Beth Deady  
 Troy Deady  
 Michael Deicher  
 Cheryl Dubbs  
 Steve Fontana

Linnie Griffin  
 Gale & Arlene Hendrickson  
 Dave Hester  
 William & Floy Hotarek  
 Dean M. Kayler  
 Gerald & Nancy Kuzaro  
 Betty & Ruby Lamantea  
 Virginia Lindstrom  
 Dennis & Julianne McNeely  
 Marsha Mott  
 Pat & Susan Noon  
 Judy Salome  
 Mike & Cyndi Smith  
 Robert Morgan Smith  
 Louis & Kay Traverso  
 David & Marjory Velthausen  
 David C. & Susann K. Watson  
 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	\$ _____	

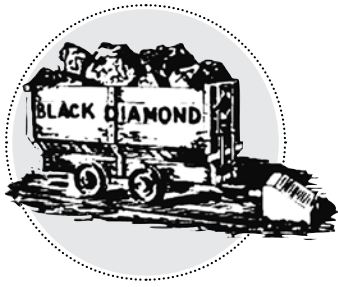
New   
 Renewal   
 Cash   
 Check   
 Ck # \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

And make sure to tell your friends, too.

## Two for one: Welsh heritage and museum's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary

*Welsh Heritage Day  
Saturday, June 2*

**Brian Parry** will present *The Legacy of Welsh Coal Mining*.

Museum opens at noon;  
presentation begins at 1 p.m.

Check the web site for details.

[www.blackdiamondmuseum.org](http://www.blackdiamondmuseum.org)



*The Welsh-costumed singers pictured here were part of the festivities for the opening of the Black Diamond Museum 30 years ago on June 6, 1982. From left to right is **Diane Olson**, co-author of *Black Diamond: Mining the Memories*; **Mary Halstead**; and **Gwen Sebastian**. The 1982 celebration also honored Black Diamond's centennial. An estimated 3,000 people were in attendance.*