

BLACK DIAMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 36, NO. 1 :: WINTER 2011 / 2012

BULLETIN

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*Carbon Coal & Clay Co.:
"Capacity 1,000 Tons Daily."*

Carbon Coal & Clay Company

From Bayne to Bolde

THOUGH VERY LITTLE OF THE TOWN REMAINS, Bayne was once a vibrant coal mining community in the first half of the last century. At its peak, Bayne boasted more than 300 residents, a school, a hotel, a store, 40 company-owned houses, and a succession of coal mines that operated through the years.

A dozen years before the town got its name, the first coal mine in the area opened at the base of Lizard Mountain in the northeast quarter of section 21, just



north of Cumberland. It was originally called the American Mine and began operations in 1895. It closed a year later and became known as the Old Carbon.

In the summer of 1898, **Mr. P. Gibbons** opened a mine on the west limb of the Lizard Mountain syncline, which led to the founding of Occidental, one-half mile northwest of what would one day become Bayne.

It was in 1903 with **Fred Nolte** and **R.S. Williams** forming the Carbon Coal

Company, however, that the town first began to take shape. A new mine called the Carbon was opened, bunkers were built, and a tramway extended to the railroad tracks that parallel the current location of the Cumberland-Kanaskat Road.

The original railroad siding for transporting the coal was built in 1908. It was



BULLETIN

WINTER 2011/2012

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.

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).

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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

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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)

Boomtown to bust

A MESSAGE from the EDITOR



**KEN
JENSEN**

Once again we're staying on the "other" side of Green River—this time just up the road from Cumberland to the former coal and clay mining town of Bayne.

Bayne, unlike Cumberland, is just a memory. Its history, like many of the "independent" mines of the time, played out quickly. Most of these concerns were just too late to the game as oil began replacing coal as early as 1910.

I want to thank **Bill Kombol** for his fantastic feature article on Bayne. I also want to thank **Beverly Prkacin Read** for reliving her childhood memories of Bayne while growing up in Cumberland.

And lastly I want to give a shout out to **Don Mason** for heading up our field investigations to the towns and mines within the Black Diamond Historical Society's environs, including Bayne, Cumberland, Durham, Franklin, and others.

I hope you'll agree that it's important that we visit and document the history of the towns that surround Black Diamond because the men went to where the work was—not the other way around. It's also part of the society's mission—to discover, preserve, and disseminate the history of Black Diamond and its environs.

I also hope you'll agree that this is a great way to show off the museum's

artifacts. This quarter's *Bulletin* has just about everything the society's ever collected from Bayne in these pages, including the rails (see the photo above).

The *Black Diamond Bulletin's* plans for the rest of 2012 include articles on prohibition and bootlegging in and around Black Diamond; logging, coal mining, and resorts at Lake Sawyer; and Black Diamond's Labor Day celebrations—past and present.

At least that's the plan.

If you have any stories on these subjects or others, please let me know.

— Ken

BlackDiamondHistory@comcast.net



The rails in front of the Black Diamond Museum originally came from a spur to the Carbon Mine in Bayne. This 1986 photo shows Director Don Mason (left of center) and BDHS Co-Founder Carl Steiert (center) preparing to transport the rails to the museum.

Letters to the historical society

Raffle winner donates painting to the museum

Dear JoAnne [Matsumura],

I was so surprised and delighted to receive your call informing me that I had won the Mount Rainier campground painting. It's precious. Ms. Hofto has certainly well portrayed life and camping in the "old days."

My husband Fred and I purchased the raffle tickets as a way of supporting the Black Diamond Historical Society. When we purchased the tickets Fred asked me where I would put the painting if I won it. After some thought and discussion, we decided that we would donate the painting to the museum as part of its permanent collection so it could be enjoyed by the many visitors. It is my pleasure to do so.

Fred and I look forward to our next visit to the museum and hopefully seeing the picture.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Brown

Margaret, the painting is hanging in the Ticket Room. —Ken Jensen

Potocnik family missing from the Fall 2011 issue of the Bulletin

I enjoyed your well-researched article on Cumberland. I'm quite familiar with its history as there is a family connection. I was rather surprised, with all the old-timers' input, however, that no one mentioned the **Potocnik** family—long-time prominent residents of that town. It would be nice if a short addendum to the article could be added to the next *Black Diamond Bulletin*, as Mrs. Potocnik definitely needs to be included:

Mrs. Mary Potocnik deserves mention as a long-time prominent resident of Cumberland. She ran the Cumberland store and was postmistress during the 1930s. As a young widow, she was very much ahead of her time as a business woman, and with her two sons, Frank and George, built and lived in the large house, still there, in front of Big Mike's, now known as the City Hall Saloon and Eatery, with the store and post office being next door. Mrs. Potocnik was well-known for her generosity and kindness during the depression years.

Vicki Munoz

Vicki, thanks for the info about Mary Potocnik and the photo. As I mentioned in my last editor's message, the feature on Cumberland was really just a "snack"—we plan to do more on the town and its people in a future issue. It'll probably have to wait until next year, though. —Ken Jensen



Outside the Cumberland store, circa 1930, from left to right: Mrs. Potocnik, Angela Repovz (Mrs. John), Mary Repov, Sr. (Mrs. Frank), and Mrs. Orahec.

Thanks for your support in 2011

Thank you to all members and nonmembers who help us along the way with the historical society. In particular, I'd like to single out these individuals and

A MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT



**KEITH
WATSON**

groups for all their hard work this year. Thanks to **Don Mason** and **Dan Hutson**, who conducted the tours to the ghost town of Franklin, our "sister city," in February and March. Our turnout last year was spectacular. This year's tours will be on Saturday, February 4, and Sunday, March 4, 2012.

Thanks to **Ken Jensen** for editing the *Black Diamond Bulletin*, devoted to Black Diamond and its environs. These articles are interesting and educate us not only about Black Diamond, but the surrounding communities where Black Diamond miners often worked when there was not enough work here at home. Many of these communities are long gone but not forgotten, thanks to Ken.

Thanks to the **Black Diamond School Reunion Committee**, who did a wonderful job this year. The next reunion will be Wednesday, May 30, 2012, and I expect it will be even better than 2011.

Thanks to **Gomer Evans** and his family and to **Don Mason**—who invited **Brian Parry**, the well-known Welshman, to give us a presentation



Steve Israel and Fran Wold played coal mining songs written and sung by Steve at the October General Membership meeting. Dee Israel showed a slide show of historical photos to go with them.



Ruth Ayers Hofto selected the lucky winning raffle ticket of her painting, "Mount Rainier campground: As I remember it in the 1930s."

PHOTOS: KEITH WATSON

that made Welsh Day a standing-room-only event. Thanks, Brian, for a great presentation. The next Welsh Day will be on Saturday, June 2, 2012, at the museum.

Thanks to the members of the **Miners' Day Committee**, who made the event so successful. Hundreds of people enjoyed refreshments, entertainment, and shopped the booths that were featured on Railroad Avenue. Also thanks to the **City of Black Diamond** and **Mayor Rebecca Olness**, who cut the ribbon to christen our locomotive, the Black

Diamond History Express. The next Miners' Day will be Saturday, July 7, 2012, and will feature—among other things—a German Band called "Happy Hans," who will play, sing, and yodel for the hundreds of attendees.

Thanks to **Traci Parent** with the East Bay Regional Park District, Black Diamond Miners Regional Preserve, who set up an information table at the museum during Miners' Day about Nortonville, California, and the Black Diamond Coal & Sand mines. This is where the founders of our



Kathryn & Tom Daniels inspired and helped us improve the landscaping around the front and back of the jail. Steve Israel installed the brick walkway to the jail.

Dennis Boxx donated the wood planks to resurface the back of the jail. Dennis Richardson helped remove and reinstall them. Palmer Coking Coal Co. provided top soil and cinders. And Tom Daniels and Gomer Evans reconditioned the picnic table.

PHOTOS: KEITH WATSON



Black Diamond lived and mined in the 1860s, '70s, and '80s before they started coal mining here. She also donated two very good books about that area to our historical society. For more, see "Nortonville revisited" on page 16.

Thanks to **Dennis Boxx** for donating the wood planks we used to resurface the back of the jail. Dennis decided to tear down his home, the "McCloud Rose Garden House," and build a new one in its place. Dennis has donated many items to the museum for which we're very grateful.

The mission of the Black Diamond Historical Society is to discover, preserve, and disseminate the history of Black Diamond and its environs as it relates to King County and the State of Washington.

Thanks to **Leih Mulvihill** and her **Labor Day Committee members**, who put together this year's three-day Labor Day event. It was even better than last year. The crowds were larger and the events went together with perfection.

Thanks to the outgoing Black Diamond Historical Society board members who served us so well: Trustee **Donald "Doc" Botts** and Secretary **Dee Israel**. You will be missed. The nice thing is they both will continue to volunteer in other

THANK YOU, *continued next page*

THANK YOU,
continued from page 5

capacities.

Thanks to our new officers and directors (see our masthead on page 2).

Thanks to Artist **Ruth Ayers Hofto**, who selected the lucky winning raffle ticket of her painting, "Mount Rainier campground: As I remember it in the 1930s." The winner, **Margaret Brown**, donated the painting to the

Black Diamond Historical Society and it's now on exhibit in the Ticket Room of the museum.

Thanks to **Steve Israel** and **Fran Wold**, who played coal mining songs written and sung by Steve at the October General Membership Meeting. And thanks to Dee Israel, too, who showed a slide show of historical photos to go with the songs.

Thanks to our **refreshment volunteers**, who provided, cooked, and served treats after our special programs. Thanks for all the hard work; the goodies were outstanding!

Thanks to **Kathryn** and **Tom Daniels**, who inspired and helped us to improve the landscaping around the front and back of the jail.

Thanks to Palmer Coking Coal Co. and Manager **Bill Kombol**, who helped by providing top soil and cinders. Top soil was trucked in so we could install sod and cinders as well as a picnic table that was reconditioned



PHOTO: KEITH WATSON

Thanks to the Lake Sawyer Christian Church for participating in "Make a Difference Day." Here's a photo of volunteers working on the museum's semaphore (railway signal) in the rain and cold.

by Tom Daniels and Gomer Evans. **Dennis Richardson** was a big help with this project and also helped with the removal and re-siding of the back of the jail.

Again thanks all of you members and non-members who have supported our efforts to keep history alive.

Hope to see you in 2012!



— Keith

Mark your calendars

- February 4** Franklin tour. Meet at the museum at noon for sign up and orientation. Leave for Franklin at 1 p.m. A \$5 donation per adult is suggested. Seniors, veterans, and children under 12 are free.
- March 4** Franklin tour. See above. *Note:* This is a Sunday tour.
- April 8** The museum is closed for the Easter holiday.
- April 22** General Membership Meeting at the museum, 1 p.m.
- May 30** Black Diamond School Reunion at the Black Diamond Community Center, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- June 2** Welsh Heritage Day at the museum, noon to 3 p.m.

Need more info? Call the Black Diamond Museum at 360-886-2142.

BAYNE TO BOLDE

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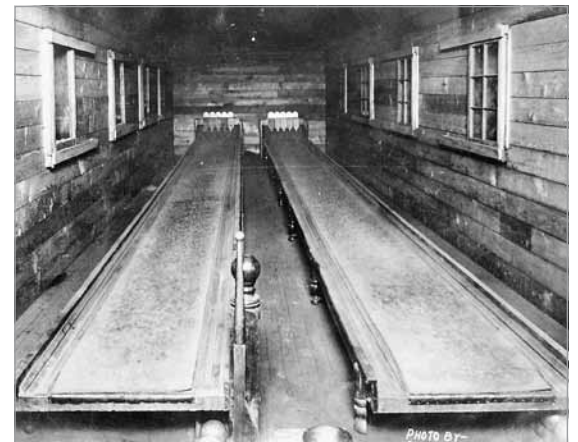
named for **George Bayne** of Oklahoma, who had discovered a coal seam. He and his brother, **William Bayne**, helped develop the mines, which led to the building of a real town.

In 1909, mining operations were taken over by the Green River Coal Company, which within a year reformed itself as the Carbon Coal & Clay Company. A building boom ensued.

But before the hotel, homes, school, and store, there was only a boarding house operated by the **George Richardson** family. They fed 40 men, charging \$25 per month for room and board. The men slept in bunk houses and **Mrs. (Harriet Stonebridge) Richardson** tended to their needs.

“We got there before the houses were built,” Mrs. Richardson said. “I cooked the first meal in Bayne on a forge—boiled coffee and fried bacon—while George worked the bellows. Until the water system was put in, we had to carry water from the well up a ladder and fill two big barrels on the roof.”

With two mines, the Daly and the Carbon, and a growing work force, the Carbon Coal & Clay Company built a hotel described by **George Watkin Evans** in his comprehensive 1914 report on the properties.



Clockwise from top: Early aerial photo of Bayne taken from atop Lizard Mountain, also known as Bunker Hill. The Deep Creek Bar is the building on the left of the row houses. Jim and Rose Bolde at their home in Bayne on November 2, 1966. This image of duckpin alleys was taken on the opening day of the Daly Club in Bayne on March 17, 1915, by Allen & Perkins.

“The hotel owned by this company, which is operated for the accommodations of miners employed in its mines, is beyond a doubt the finest hotel in any mining camp in the state of Washington. It is a very attractive 3-story building that has well constructed rooms, reading room, lobby, and dining room. This hotel would be a credit to any community. Adjoining the hotel is a small 2-story annex in which the help

live. The hotel will accommodate 175 men.”

Next to the hotel stood the general merchandise store also described by Evans: “The company’s store, which is located but a short distance from the hotel, is a large, well-lighted building, 40 x 80 feet, and 14 feet from floor to ceiling. There is a warehouse attached which is 20 x 40 feet. The store is well supplied at all times, with a first-class

BAYNE TO BOLDE, *continued next page*

BAYNE TO BOLDE

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grade of goods.”

About 40 houses were also constructed, 32 south of the hotel, store, and school and another 8 or so next to the Carbon mine tipple and bunkers. It was a short walk to work for the miners.

The homes were called “one-a-days” as that was the average time it took to build one. The single-story homes had four rooms, one plumbing feature, and one sink. The exterior siding was fir and the interior was sealed shiplap.

Coal stoves heated the homes while electricity was provided from the coal mine’s power plant. Most homes were 688 square feet in size and otherwise identical.

In 1914, mine equipment included three 150-horsepower Erie brand boilers providing electricity to the mine and the town’s residents. The wash plant featured 250-volt direct current generators with a marble switchboard.

The blacksmith shop contained forges, engines, tools, cut-off and rip saws, benches, vises, and many other tools.

The small mine office was just 168 square feet. Miners changed and hung their wet work clothes after shift in a spacious 10 x 40 foot change and dry house. The mule stable was a two-



story affair capable of accommodating 11 head of stock and a year’s supply of feed.

The bunkers and washery were one

Competition was tough with nearby mines in Cumberland, Durham, Elk Coal, Hiawatha, Kangley, Kummer, Occidental, and Pocahontas all competing in a volatile marketplace as price, quality, and dependability dictated production.

of the more impressive structures on the grounds. Standing five stories tall,

Above, the Carbon Fuel Company store on April 9, 1940, had seen better days. (Tax Lot # 222107-9006 “B” comes from the Puget Sound Regional Archives.) Below, an advertisement for Bolde’s bituminous coal from the well known Carbon seam.

40 by 104 feet in size, it was equipped with a Phillips cross-over automatic tipple for dumping the loaded coal cars as they were pulled from the mine.

The bunkers could hold 500 tons of coal and three Pittsburg brand jig washers cleaned the nut coal at a capacity of 40 tons per hour.

A moving picking table with a rock crusher allowed slack to be removed and carried away by a 250-foot-long, 40-foot-high conveyor to a refuse pile.

The facilities were served by branch rail lines of both the Northern Pacific and the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul railroads. The town also fronted



Above, inside the Carbon Coal & Clay Company store.
 Right: A 5¢ token for use at the store. (Photo: Robert Dobson)



the aforementioned Cumberland-Kanaskat county road. Nearby, the Little Falls Brick Clay Company of Tacoma established a large plant for manufacturing and firing bricks, which only added to the prospects of booming Bayne.

In 1910, Bayne was seemingly set for decades of prosperity, as coal production expanded and miners' wages rose. Three years later, an 18-year-old from Milford, Massachusetts, moved west to stoke the mine's boilers. His name was **Jim Bolde**.

Coal production grew throughout the state of Washington during the first two decades of the 20th century. Typically more than half of the state's output was exported while the rest was sold to a growing local economy.

Railroads, steamships, power plants, industries, businesses, and homes all relied upon coal to generate electricity and heat.

In 1904, the Pacific Coast Coal

Company consolidated ownership of mines in Newcastle, Issaquah, Black Diamond, Franklin, and Burnett.

The Northwest Improvement Company, a subsidiary of the Northern Pacific Railroad, produced huge quantities of coal from its Roslyn mines to fire the boilers of locomotive-driven trains moving goods east and west and up and down the coast.

The independently-owned Carbon Coal & Clay Company in Bayne, however, never had that kind of consolidated market power, but their mines grew nonetheless. At its peak in 1917, more than 75,000 tons of high-grade coal were mined from catacombs 300 feet underground.

But competition was tough with nearby mines in Cumberland (Eureka, Fleet, Hyde, Independent, Navy, Ozark, and Sunset),

BAYNE TO BOLDE, continued next page

Thar's coal in them thar hills

Enumclaw Courier-Herald, June 14, 1935 — According to local mine experts, one of the most valuable coal veins ever to be opened up in this region has been recently uncovered at Bayne by Jim Bolde, operator of the Carbon Fuel Company mines. Although that property has been producing high grades of coal for many years, the vein now being worked is entirely new and its outcropping was located in a dense forest almost a mile from the other workings.

The coal is of the bituminous variety and the highest grade of coking fuel. As the result of an examination of the new mine this week by men who are considered authorities on mining matters, the supply will be almost inexhaustible.

In reality the new mine has developed three distinct veins, each running approximately ten feet in diameter, and the three measuring forty-eight feet over all. The new hole is what mine operators call a "natural," the timber necessary for the underground bracing and cribbing growing on the slopes of the mountain near the mine....

Coal mining is one of the chief industries of this section of King County, its payrolls adding materially to the prosperity and growth of the community. Friends and business circles alike are congratulating Mr. Bolde on his faith and courage in expending such a large amount of money on new development at this time....



This typical Bayne home, called a “one-a-day,” as that was the average time it took to build one, was photographed April 4, 1940. (Tax Lot # 222107-9007 “O” comes from the Puget Sound Regional Archives.)



This home is one of three still standing in Bayne. All three have been remodeled, though this one is the closest to the original floor plan. (Photo: Robert Dobson)

BAYNE TO BOLDE

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Durham, Elk Coal, Hiawatha, Kangley, Kummer, Occidental, and Pocahontas all competing in a volatile marketplace as price, quality, and dependability dictated production.

When World War I ended, coal prices fell worldwide as did production. Coal mine operators tried to cut wages, which resulted in a series of bitter strikes and lockouts, both locally and nationwide. In 1921, strikes nearly destroyed the town. By 1923 coal production had dwindled to but a few thousand tons per year. It

looked like Bayne might face the same fate as nearby Franklin, which folded in the early 1920s.

But one man had grown up in the coal mining business in Bayne. He knew the mines as he knew his multiplication tables. He knew every piece of mining equipment and could operate them. He knew each tunnel of the underground coal workings and could perform any duty at the mine.

Jim Bolde, master mechanic for the Carbon Coal & Clay Company, took over operations of the Bayne

property in 1928. He started small but gradually grew the business, which he rechristened the Carbon Fuel Company.

Bolde took an active interest in every aspect of his new mining property ... sometimes too active.

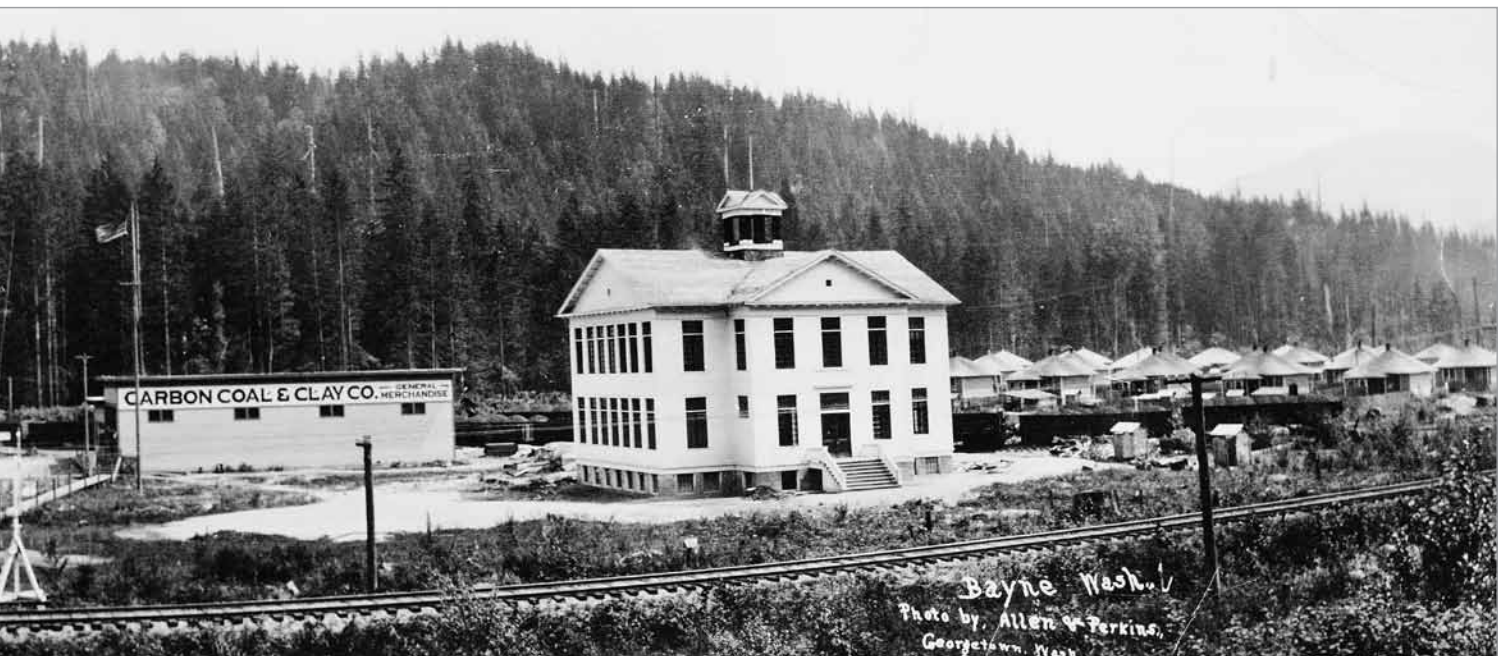
At one point Bolde became suspicious that dynamite was being stolen from the mine’s powder house. According to **Gene Emry** who grew up in Bayne, Bolde set a trap with a shotgun that would discharge when someone broke in. The trap backfired



The hotel, which was operated for the accommodations of miners employed in the Carbon and Daly mines, was originally a two-story structure, but a growing work force necessitated an expansion.



The three-story hotel had well constructed rooms, reading room, lobby, and dining room. Adjoining the hotel was a small two-story annex in which the help lived. The hotel accommodated 175 men.



Wide angle photo of Bayne, Washington, showing from left (north) to right (south), the coal mine workings and slag pile, company houses, the hotel, the Carbon Coal & Clay Co. General Merchandise store, the Bayne school house, and more company houses, with railroad tracks in front of the coal mining town. Photo courtesy of Leroy and Doug Wagner.

and Bolde lost a leg, wearing a peg the rest of his life.

Some recall that Bolde closed the mines in the early 1930s to get rid of strikers, but most remember him as a man dedicated to his employees and the town.

Don Windsor related how Bolde financed the Bayne Wolverines, who won the state amateur baseball

championship in 1939. **Lorraine Windsor**, Don's wife, told of Bolde buying every child a Christmas present and charging residents only \$10 per month for rent, which included electricity and water.

One day, Jim Bolde made the short trip to Cumberland and met **Rose Malatesta**, of nearby Veazie, who worked in the town's only hotel. On

September 11, 1932, friends from far and wide came out for the couple's wedding held at the Bayne Hotel, complete with a brass band and huge sides of meat barbecued on spits above open fires.

Rose Bolde described her husband in a 1967 *Seattle Times* interview. "Jim never made much money. He

BAYNE TO BOLDE, *continued next page*

Boomtown of coal now lies in soot

Seattle Times, December 17, 1967 — *The stark skeleton of Bayne, a former coal-mining boom town, almost disappears during the spring and summer months, when alders, cottonwoods, and blackberry vines hide it amid their foliage.*

Bayne, 15 miles east of Auburn, became a near ghost town 15 years ago when Jim Bolde, an almost legendary figure in this South King County mining area, reluctantly abandoned his Carbon Fuel Co. operation.

Now, year by year, Bayne is being swallowed by nature—inhabited only by Bolde's widow, Rose, and a few "gyppo" loggers who rent the company town's unpainted, three-room houses.

The story of Bayne's rise and fall is a reflection of Washington's coal industry, which peaked out in 1918 and has slipped into economic obscurity.

Other towns in this coal belt—Cumberland, Kangley, Veazie, Palmer, Durham, Occidental, Kanaskat, Ravensdale, and Selleck—shared Bayne's fate when the demand for coal slackened in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Only Black Diamond has continued as a coal-mining town. All the others are gone, or going.

Bayne, at one time, showed great promise. From a humble beginning in the 1880s, the little town began to flourish: Initial mining efforts were on a small scale, but by 1908 rich coal seams were found in the hills behind Bayne.



Bayne wedding of Jim Bolde and Rose Malatesta on September 11, 1932. Photo courtesy of Leroy and Doug Wagner.

BAYNE TO BOLDE

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could have, but he was always helping people instead of getting rich. He was rough all right, but he had a heart of gold and everyone knew it." Jim continued working side by side with the miners who dug his coal.

Mines opened and closed as increased competition from California oil wells and Columbia River hydroelectric dams ended most coal sales to locomotives and coal-fired power plants. The depression years of the 1930s were difficult for undercapitalized and smaller firms.

While the early

operations at Bayne used electric hoists to pull coal cars out of the mines, from the 1930s into the 1950s, mules were often used. **George Costanich** was a coal miner who told a story of a particular mule named



Shown here is a typical water tank for filling the tanks of steam locomotives, located along the tracks of the Northern Pacific Railroad between Palmer and Bayne. This April 1940 photo of King County Assessor tax parcel #152106-9019 comes from the Puget Sound Regional Archives.

“Jack.”

“I worked as a mule-skinner for Bolde when I started working in mines. On second shift one night I dumped all the loaded cars and was ready to go back inside. I had a whip and hit the mule on his butt a few times, but he wouldn’t move. I didn’t see Jim as he was sitting on some timbers off to one side. I hadn’t seen him as it was a bit dark.

“He said, ‘Georgie, you shouldn’t hit Jack with a whip and swear at him. You have to talk nice to him.’ So he gets by the mule’s head and was saying, ‘Come on Jackie, get up.’ This went on for about a minute. Then Jim started swearing and picked up a 2- by 6-inch lagging and hit Jack between the ears and said, ‘You black S.O.B., when I say “get” you better move.’

“I flicked the whip and he started to go. I said, ‘Jim, is the lagging better to use than a whip?’ He really got to laughing. Jim was a nice guy. But, that’s how he was.” (Lagging is a coal mining term that refers to rough cut 2-inch-thick boards used to hold up the roof of an underground mine.)

All good things must come to an end. Coal mining in Bayne ceased around 1950. With the miners gone, Jim and Rose continued to rent the old company houses to gyppo loggers, and later to construction workers who helped build the Howard Hanson dam. But with little rental income the cheaply built houses slowly deteriorated. By 1967, the year Jim Bolde died, most of the old company houses had roofs of moss and were abandoned.

Today, little remains of Bayne save for two or three of the original homes remodeled beyond recognition. The

hotel, store, school, and mines are all gone. Old coal slag piles still dot the hillsides. The railroad is little used except to stage empty rail cars.

The Welsh, Italian, and Czech miners who lived in Bayne and dug the coal are all gone.

But for the families with surnames like **Cinkovich, Costanich, Coutts, Ernise, Kranick, Manson, Parkerson, Richardson, Stonebridge, Tobacco, Zapitul**, and many, many others, the memories of Bayne will never fade away. ❖

— William Kombol

Bill Kombol is the manager of Palmer Coking Coal Company. His “When Coal Was King” column appears weekly in the Voice of the Valley newspaper.



PHOTO: ROBERT DOBSON

In our museum



PHOTO: KEN JENSEN

The Little Falls Paver was manufactured by the Little Falls Brick Company. This Tacoma-based concern leased land near Bayne where it built a large plant, circa 1911. The business seems to have met an early demise, however, closing around 1914. This paver, along with several other types of bricks found at the site, are on display in the museum’s “Booze Room.”

Where's 'Bossie'... Bayne or Navy?

Tracking down the family cow was a nightly 'chore'

My memories of Bayne go back to when I was a child in the mid-1940s. I grew up in Cumberland a few miles southwest of Bayne. During this period

there was open range for farm animals to roam.

A PIONEER family ALBUM



BEVERLY READ

After the morning milking, our two cows would be released to graze their way to anywhere they chose to wander.

They would follow the railroad tracks and most of the time end up close to Bayne.

Every night we had to find them and bring them back home. We would ask neighbors along the way if they saw which way Bossie went—if she traveled to the left, we walked the tracks toward Bayne. If she turned right, she went to Navy. My brothers and I didn't like to go to Navy. It was spooky.

We loved Bayne because along the way was a fishing hole called Rockbottom.

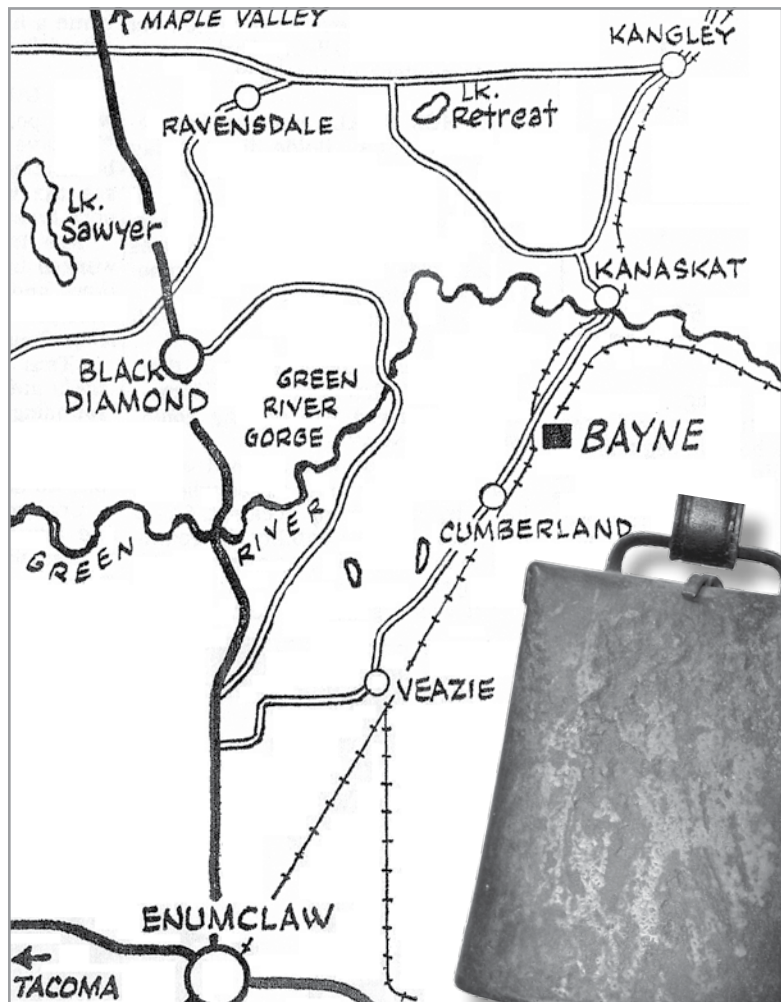


PHOTO: ROBERT DOBSON



In those days we carried a pocket knife, twine, and straight pins. A branch from a tree would serve as the fishing pole and the twine was wound around the notched top several times and tied securely. Then the straight pin was bent and shaped like a hook and tied to the other end of the twine. Worms were used as bait and they were easy to find prodding with the pocket knife and turning over rocks.

Most of the time we came home with a couple of trout.

Now we were going to be late going home with Bossie but she would let us ride her. Her swaying as she walked gave a special tone to the cowbell as the

clapper would go from side to side.

Another fond memory is when I was learning to drive. My boyfriend was my instructor in my parents' 1937 Chevy. I was driving along the Cumberland-Kanaskat Road when my boyfriend said, "Turn here."

I did as instructed—without slowing down or braking—and ended up with the front end of the car heading up the railroad tracks at the Bayne crossing!

Beverly Prkacin Read has lived in Lake Forest Park since 1973. She was born at home in Cumberland and then moved to Enumclaw after graduation.

Another brick in the museum



PHOTO: ROBERT DOBSON

The Field Investigation team, led by Don Mason, recently trekked to the site of the former Bayne brick plant. From left to right, Dave Watson, Dave Smith, Don Mason, Keith Watson, Steve Israel, Ken Jensen, and Brandon Jensen; front: Bill Kombol and Shawn O'Neill. For more photos of the site, check out Ghost Towns of Washington's page, www.ghosttownsofWashington.com/Standard_Brick_Works.html.

1,278

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

Be our guest

During the months of September through November, the museum had 1,278 guests. Visitors hailed from 14 states—Alaska, Arizona, California, Illinois, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, and, of course, Washington—as well as from the United Kingdom.

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

“

Great history! So many great examples of artifacts

We learned a lot

Saw graduation pictures of my Mom & Dad

A special museum

Wonderful treasures to see

I'll be back

Lovely town—much more history than I knew

Amazing how much is here

Great train

This place is really amazing! Glad it's here

Thank you for saving history

Enjoyed looking & learning

Outstrips any small town & museum I've ever been to

One of our favorite spots

A step back in time

We love looking at the old things

Nortonville revisited

Mount Diablo coal field once California's largest coal-producing region

By Keith Watson

In September, Judy and I traveled to the town site of Nortonville, California, and the Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve. We were treated to a wonderful tour by the park's supervising naturalist, **Traci Parent**. Traci showed us the Black Diamond mine, town sites, sand mine, and the Rose Hill Cemetery.

We were really impressed by what we saw. After the coal was depleted in the area, miners turned their attention to sand, creating huge caverns as they mined. Some of the sand was sold to the Atlas Glass Company in Oakland.



Above, Traci Parent, the park's supervising naturalist, and Judy Watson.

(Photo: Keith Watson); Right: Keith

Watson stands next to one of the original

mining structures. In early 1885, the Black Diamond Coal Co.

stopped its mining operation at Nortonville—35 miles northeast of San Francisco—and moved to the new town of Black Diamond, Washington Territory. (Photo: Judy Watson)



New book offers a look into the lives of miners in Contra Costa County

A new book by the East Bay Regional Park District, *Rose Hill: A Comprehensive History of a Pioneer Cemetery*, documents the cemetery's history, now a part of Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in Antioch. The book by Supervising Naturalist Traci Parent is based on her 30 years of research into the history of the people buried there.

From the 1860s to the turn of the 20th century, Black Diamond was the site of California's largest coal-producing region. Known

as the Mount Diablo coal field, the area once boasted the five thriving communities of Nortonville, Somersville, Stewartville, West Hartley, and Judsonville.

Rose Hill Cemetery was created in the early 1860s and served as a Protestant burial ground for the coal field families. Although over 200 burials have been documented through research, it is likely that more internments exist. Once the site of neglect and vandalism, the cemetery and many of its gravestones have been painstakingly restored over recent

decades by Park District rangers. Researched over three decades through newspaper accounts, obituaries, and family histories, *Rose Hill: A Comprehensive History of a Pioneer Cemetery* is the only comprehensive account of the people interred in the cemetery.

For more information about obtaining the book or visiting Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, contact the East Bay Regional Park District at www.ebparcs.org or call the Park District at 1-888-327-2757.

In memoriam

Gone but not forgotten

Dorothy Jean Franz Corlett

a society charter member and longtime volunteer, passed away on October 11, 2011, in Spokane, Washington, at the age of 91.

She was born November 23, 1919, to Albert and Selma Anderson Franz in Seattle, Washington.



Her contributions over the years are more than most can remember. She enjoyed serving as a docent, greeting museum visitors from around the world. And for many years she served more than her share of meals to the "Thursday Crew" workers as they prepared for the museum's grand opening in 1982.

She was a graduate of Black Diamond High School, class of 1939, and was valedictorian of the class.

Dorothy's artistic talents of art and sketches grace the front page of the school's newspaper, *The Sparkler*, and she served in other capacities in getting the paper out on time.

During her tenure with the society she wrote of her memories of living at Clay Mine and Black Diamond in a series of articles called "Around Town." These articles have been published in the society's newsletter and blog. The society's public research center was named the "Around Town Series" in her honor.

Dorothy and Charles (Charlie) Corlett left the society a legacy in their gift of the working model of the Black Diamond mining town and coal bunker display that has been viewed by thousands of people from around the world.

Dorothy and Charlie are both gone, but they will never be forgotten.

Dorothy is survived by daughter Betty Visser, sons Robert and Charles Corlett, brothers Albert and Robert Franz, and sisters Margaret Pearce and Betty Uhrig.

She was preceded in death by her husband Charles M. Corlett in 2002, brother Arthur Franz, and sister Louise Bertelli.

She is interned with her husband Charles at Evergreen Memorial Park, Enumclaw, Washington.

Glenn R. Fredericksen,

89, of Cashmere, Washington, passed away on November 10, 2011. He was born April 12, 1922.

Raised in Black Diamond, he graduated from Black Diamond High School in 1940.

The society is appreciative for his membership and support of our mission since 1989. He became a lifetime member in 2000.

Many of you may remember the years of Labor Day festivities that wouldn't have been the same if he were not master of ceremonies.

Glenn was honored with the Labor Day Citizen of the Year award in 1968.

Glenn served as an aerial gunnery instructor in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He later married Barbara Stoffel and settled in Cashmere for 63 years. He served as the city's postmaster for 30 years, retiring in 1985.



He led many Cashmere community organizations; the American Legion, Rotary Club, Cashmere Booster Club, Cashmere Boy Scout Troop, and was a volunteer fireman for 31 years.

Survivors include his wife Barbara of 63 years; children John, Linda, Diane, and Karol; sister Norene

Lundberg; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Edwin A. Opstad, a longtime society member, passed away August 21, 2011. He was born in Ellensburg, Washington, in 1934, and grew up in the Snoqualmie Valley, graduating from Mt. Si High School.



An Army man of 25 years, he served in the states, the Pentagon, Germany, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Ed was instrumental in founding Heritage Bank, formerly Washington State Bank, the Seabury School, the historical society of Federal Way, and promoted the establishment of the City of Federal Way, Washington.

Ed's interest in history and preservation led him to author two books: *One Hundred Years of Masonry in Fall City*, and *Images of America—Federal Way*, 2008.

In 2009 Ed married Bette Simpson who survives him, along with four children from a previous union with Shirley Thompson.

Thanks for the memories

Larry G. 'Pete' Burnett

February 16, 1942 – Nov. 26, 2011
Partner – Burnett Logging Co.

Gayle L. Phillips Graff Garwick

June 25, 1949 – October 3, 2011
Niece of Jazz Kravagna

Glee McCauley

January 29, 1916 – October 18, 2011
Mother of Daryl McCauley

Phyllis Malatesta Sambila

May 17, 1932 – November 3, 2011
Sister of Arlene Malatesta Parkin

Henrietta Senecal

Passed away September 4, 2011
*Mother of Harvey Senecal,
owner of Mama Passarelli's*

Donations



We wish to thank the following for their generous donations to the Black Diamond Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

In memory of:

Rich Bainton,
by Joe & Eileen Zumek

Helen Bremmeyer,
by Doug & Faye Clerget
and Alex & Jacqueline
Collecchi

Dorothy Franz Corlett,
by the Boxx family, Steve &
Dee Israel, David & Diane
Stringer, and Joe & Eileen
Zumek

**Charlie & Dorothy
Corlett,**
by Lynda Maks

Gayle Garwick,
by Ramon & Jiovina
Kravagna

Jane Hawthorne,
by Jodie Olson

Margaret Thomas Jensen,
by Peggy Stanley

Ethel Estby Johnson,
by Jodie Olson

Norm Konoski,
by the Boxx family

Stanley B. Konoske,
by the Boxx family

Glee McCauley,
by Palmer Coking Coal Co.

Georgia Kaye Roehrick,
by Bob & Joni Marsicano

Grover C. Smail,
by Palmer Coking Coal Co.

Maitland Stanley,
by Peggy Stanley

Ralph L. Zeek,
by Joe & Eileen Zumek

Archive preservation fund:

Sherrie Acker

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Betty Blakeney

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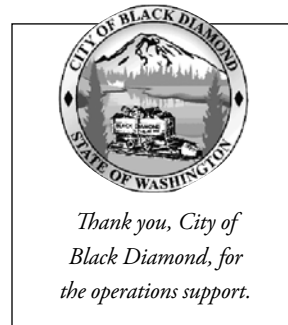
Dick & Lori Hoyt

K-C Food Corporation

Alice J. Morris

Audrey L. Sellman

Ralph & Betty Uhrig



October raffle raises \$1,158

We give our sincere thanks to the following individuals for your generous contributions to the Newsletter Fund through our October 2011 raffle. The winner was **Margaret Henry Brown**, who in turn donated the painting to the museum.

Miriam Del Duca Adlum
Gerald Albers
Richard F. Allen
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Dr. Beverly Anne Bancroft
Bill & Judy Bidwell
Esther Pennacchi Birch
Bill Boston
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Bill Bremmeyer
Margaret Henry Brown
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Jerold & Gloria Thompson
Louis & Kay Traverso
Beth VanBuskirk
Betty VanVleck
David & Marjory Velthausen
Muriel Waldo
Chris & Raeann Webb
Don & Lorraine Winsor
Julia Young

Welcome new and renewing members

The Black Diamond Historical Society now has 309 members. We are pleased to welcome our newest members this quarter:


Mark & Keri Brown
George Costanich
Sue Dringle
David & Connie Florence
Sharon Girton
Guy Gnirk
Michael & Felicidad Groves
Frank H. Manowski
Joan Newman
Mike Parkin

Beverly Prkacin Read
Frank & Eleanor Roulst
Ralph & Betty Ubrig
Robert Van Buskirk
Richard Van Horn
Thomas & Lynn Walsh
Lyliane S. Couture, Attorney at Law


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

Sherrie Acker
Betty Blakeney
Bob & Jodine Burke
Don & Carmel Camerini
Lois Clapper
Rick Darby
Louis & Rosa Draghi
Carl & Georgia Falk

Carolyn Henderson
Carolyn Herrera
Jerrine Hope
Dick & Lori Hoyt
Steve & Diane Kitz
Pete & Dahni Logar
Josephine Long
Jeanne Maier
Dr. Richard & Shari Mariotti
George & Martha McPherson
Ted & Leona Myers
Ron & Rebecca Olness
Virginia Olsen
Janice Ranton
Jeanne Riggs
Joan Traylor
Rose Vetter
Chris & Raeann Webb



Membership and Renewal Form



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Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Day Phone _____ - _____ - _____

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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	\$ _____	

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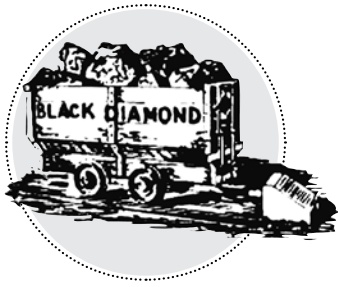
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**Black Diamond
Historical Society
PO Box 232
Black Diamond, WA 98010**

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.)

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And make sure to tell your friends, too.

Join us as we journey to turn-of- the-century Franklin

*Saturday, February 4, 2012
& Sunday, March 4, 2012*

Sign up and orientation at noon.
We'll be leaving the museum
at 1 p.m. for Franklin (about
3 miles).

Check the web site for details.
www.blackdiamondmuseum.org



"There were a lot of colored people in Franklin," said Vera Dudik Kidd. "We didn't know what segregation meant. We just played with them [the African-American children] nicely." Vera, on the left in the front row, and her family arrived in Franklin in 1898. This photo was taken in front of the town's original schoolhouse in about 1900, less than a decade after the 1891 race riots.