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*The Coal Miners' Honor Garden was dedicated during Black Diamond Miners' Day, July 6. (Photo: Bob Dobson.)*

### Coal Miners' Honor Garden

# Memorial a tribute to coal miners and their families

**M**Y FATHER WAS A COAL MINER. So were both grandfathers and three of my four great-grandfathers. As were a host of uncles, great uncles, and cousins. I was privileged to work at a coal mine, Rogers No. 3 in Ravensdale—the last underground coal mine in the state of Washington. One of the first books I can remember having read to me was *Two Little Miners*.



You might say I grew up in a coal mining culture.

My name is **Bill Kombol** and today I manage a company, Palmer Coking Coal Co., whose name stretches back 80 years to an era when *coal was king*. It's a phrase I adapted for a weekly column I write for the *Voice of the Valley*, a local newspaper.

When the historical society approached me to write about what the miners' statue means to me, I was humbled.

More years ago than I care to remember, I remarked to **Bob Eaton**, then president of the historical society, that Black Diamond should have a statue of a coal miner. I'd recently visited Roslyn and was impressed with its monument to coal miners. I had imagined a statue in the triangular green space on SR-169 known as Coal Car Park.



**BULLETIN**  
SUMMER 2013

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.  
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12 to 4 p.m. (summer)

# Forever etched in granite

## A MESSAGE from the EDITOR



**KEN  
JENSEN**

**N**ow that the Coal Miners' Honor Garden is finally here on the grounds of the museum, I'm fascinated by the more than 1,100 names etched on the granite wall.

Who were these brave men? What were they like? How did they tragically lose their lives in a coal mine? Why do we know so little about most of them?

These were men with a job—a very dangerous job—but one that paid the bills and put food on the table to provide for their families. But there's always more to the story...

In this issue we look at not only the men who lost their lives in the mines, but the survivors—women like **Louise Fabre Jouila Persyn Bailleul** who lost three husbands to

coal mining-related accidents and maladies, her second husband being **Julius Persyn**, who perished in the 1910 Lawson Mine explosion. And **Lily English** and sons **Jim** and **Jerry**, who lost a husband and father, **Harry English**, in a cave-in at Landsburg in 1954. And **Dorothy Haag**, who lost a grandfather she never really knew, **Frank Bussey**, in a 1920 Mine 11 accident along with 3 other miners.

Every man on the granite wall has a story—some of which we've written about here in past issues; some whose stories are completely unknown ... at least for *now*.

Men like **Charles P Moroni**, 72, a timberman at the New Black Diamond Mine near Maple Valley, who stepped in front of a loaded coal car in 1939; or **Pete Pasquini**, a 49-year-old miner with the Strain Coal Co. in Black Diamond who was killed when two loaded coal cars broke free in 1938; or **Daniel Carey**, 38, who was instantly killed by a fall of rock in the Franklin Gem Mine in 1942; or **Charles Barnett**, 43, who died as the result of injuries when a chunk of coal broke free, rolling down the slope and striking him in the face at the New Black Diamond Mine in 1937; or **George F. Jones**, a 28-year-old rope rider who fell down the slope of Mine 6 near Black Diamond in 1936.

Each man has a story. And so does his family. The question is: Who's going to tell it? If you have a story about one of your descendants whose name is etched in the granite of the new Coal Miners' Honor Garden, we want to hear from *you*.

— Ken

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PHOTO: KEN JENSEN



# Coal Miners' Honor Garden the culmination of years of hard work

The idea for having a memorial for coal miners was talked about by the founders of our historical society some time ago. The current idea for a memorial was sparked when me and **Judy** and **Howard** and **Dorothy Botts**

## A MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT



**KEITH  
WATSON**

visited Roslyn, Washington. We had the pleasure of talking with **Nick Henderson**, who's associated with the Roslyn Historical Museum Society. Nick filled

us in about the Roslyn memorial that features a life-size bronze coal miner statue surrounded by granite memorial tiles.

What could we do in Black Diamond to memorialize our coal miners? Ideas began to grow and then something happened that allowed us to develop those ideas.

**But first let me take you back to Sunday, November 6, 1910**, to the community of New Lawson and the Lawson coal mine—just up the hill from the present Black Diamond Police station, south on Botts Drive.

**Matteo Riccetti's** crew was assigned to go into the mine, but his wife was having a baby and he was desperately seeking a midwife. He



PHOTO: KEN JENSEN



PHOTO: BOB DOBSON

*Top: The honor garden features a life-size bronze coal miner statue surrounded by a paver walkway. If you'd like to purchase a paver—there's still space available—contact the historical society at 360-886-2142 or [Museum@BlackDiamondMuseum.org](mailto:Museum@BlackDiamondMuseum.org). Bottom: Dee Israel, Susie Thompson, and Shane Israel sort bricks while Gomer Evans supervises.*

didn't join his men.

At 6:40 a.m., a violent explosion ripped through the mine killing 16 men, including his crew.

According to Matteo's family, he forever regretted not being with his crew that day, but was thankful to be

alive. His relatives, **John** and **Susie Morganti**, made a generous bequeath to our historical society to use as we saw fit to memorialize coal miners.

This was the seed money we

**PRESIDENT**, *continued next page*

**PRESIDENT,**

*continued from page 3*

needed to start the Coal Miners' Honor Garden, which was dedicated on the grounds of the museum as a permanent memorial to all the coal miners of Washington State.

The manager of this project was **Gomer Evans**, and with **Steve Israel**, enlisted an army of volunteers to help with all the work to prepare the finished product. Thanks, Gomer and Steve, as well as all the many people who had the vision and drive to accomplish this project.

The Coal Miners' Honor Garden features a garden of flowers and plants that have been inspired, planted, and maintained by **Katherine Daniels**, making the grounds look like a park.

The 28-foot granite wall, with black granite on top to depict a coal

seam, lists the names of the miners who perished in the coal mines of Washington State. Some names were unknown and are listed as that. The

**“Thanks, Gomer and Steve, as well as all the many people who had the vision and drive to accomplish this project.”**

ends of the wall cascade down to the ground and are inscribed with a memorial poem and song written by Steve Israel.

The rest of the garden includes a granite pedestal with the coal miners' prayer and a life-size bronze statue of

a miner who is swinging his pick. This inspiring statue was sculpted by the artist **Paul Crites** from Ellensburg. The statue's patina shows the coal dust that usually covered coal miners doing their work.

There are four granite memorial benches on the site for people to sit on and enjoy the surroundings.

Around the base of the wall and statue are inscribed paver bricks from people who donated \$100 for each brick.

If you wish to donate, you can still purchase a brick. These funds will help in maintaining the honor garden.

Premier Memorial in Tacoma supplied the paver bricks and granite and donated their help with the installation.

The ribbon-cutting and dedication of the honor garden on Miners' Day

## We'll be having some fun on the boardwalk



PHOTO: BOB DOBSON

*The new concrete boardwalk replaced the worn out wood boardwalk that was installed in the 1980s by the founders of the historical society. It matches the cement sidewalks that were installed on Railroad Avenue in 2010. Project Manager Gomer Evans did what he does best—get the job done! A lot of people helped with the demolition of the wood boardwalk, including Don Mason, Clayton Mead, Steve Israel, and more.*



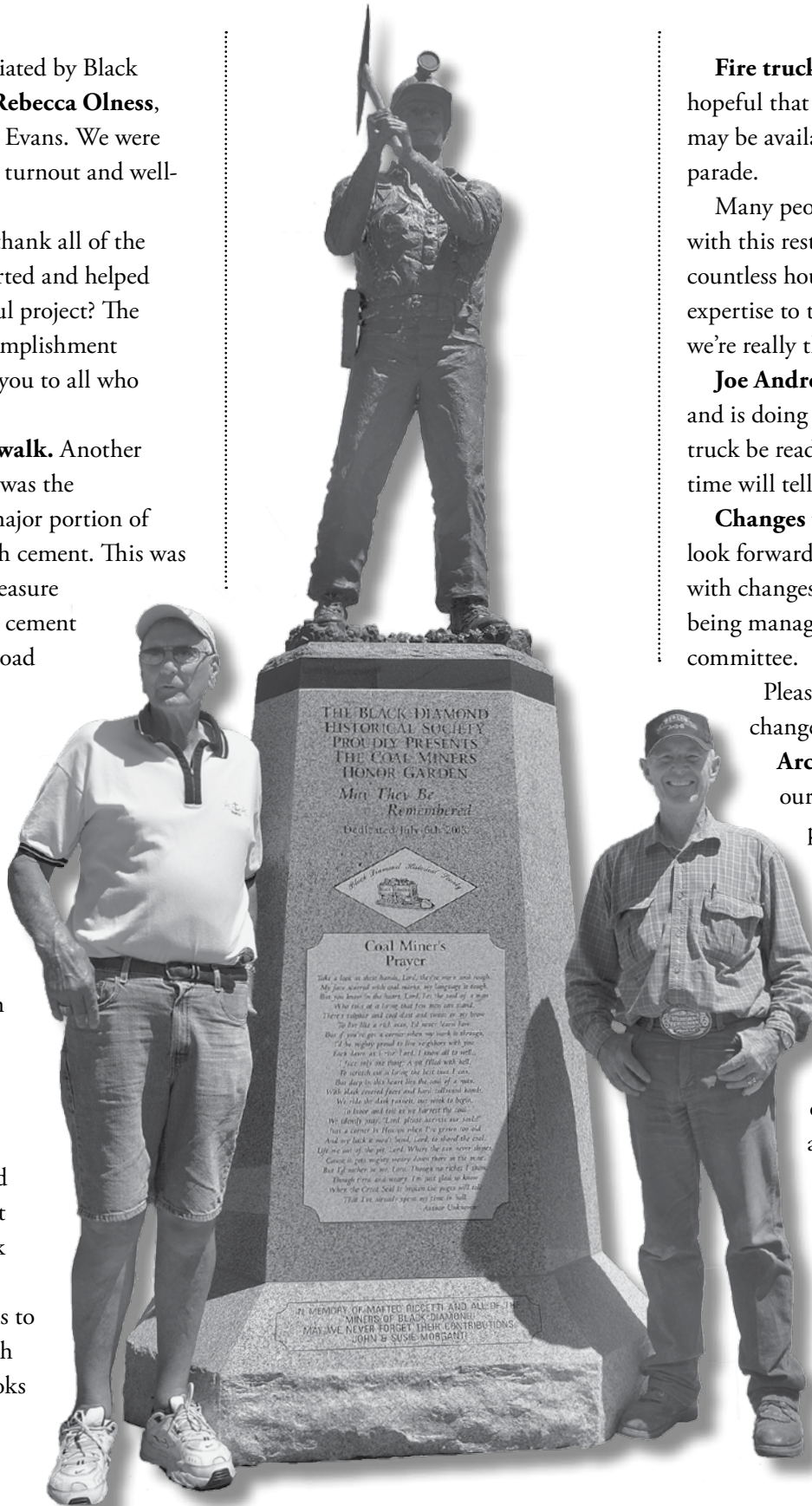
on July 6 was officiated by Black Diamond Mayor **Rebecca Olness**, along with Gomer Evans. We were delighted with the turnout and well-wishers.

How does one thank all of the people who supported and helped with this wonderful project? The honor garden accomplishment says it all—thank you to all who participated.

**Cement boardwalk.** Another project completed was the replacement of a major portion of the boardwalk with cement. This was done as a safety measure and it matches the cement sidewalks on Railroad Avenue.

Here again was project manager Gomer Evans doing what he does best—getting things done. A lot of people helped with the demolition of the wood boardwalk.

We found a lot of rotten wood and know that the next step will be to look at the rest of the boardwalk. Thanks to all who helped with this project—it looks great.



Gomer Evans, left, and Sculptor Paul Crites stand next to the life-size bronze coal miner statue after its installation on July 3. “To me the Coal Miners’ Honor Garden is a terrific tribute to all the miners who worked so fearlessly in those deep mines,” said Gomer. “Most got to go home at night, but many didn’t make that trip back to their families. Some are buried down in the mines.”

**Fire truck restoration.** We are hopeful that the restored fire truck may be available for the Labor Day parade.

Many people have been involved with this restoration and spent countless hours offering their expertise to the project for which we’re really thankful.

**Joe Androsko** heads this project and is doing a great job. Will the fire truck be ready for the parade? Only time will tell...

**Changes to the museum.** We look forward to a successful summer with changes inside the museum being managed by **Dee Israel** and her committee.

Please stop by and see the changes in progress.

**Archives.** **David Watson**, our archivist, is converting photographs and documents into a digital format as he organizes the collection.

**Volunteers.** Thanks to all the docents, greeters, and volunteers who make our history society better and better.

Hope you all have a wonderful summer, and if you get a chance, visit the museum and the Coal Miners’ Honor Garden.

— Keith

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## Going home

# Louise Fabre Jouila Persyn Bailleul

After coal mining disasters of the era, widows and their children often returned to their homeland, a place of familiarity and comfort. Mrs. Julius Persyn, along with her infant son Georges and brother-in-law Medard Persyn, returned to Europe on September 23, 1911, following the 1910 Lawson Mine disaster that claimed the life of her husband. She left her eldest son Henri with her brother's family in Seattle.

**T**he November 6, 1910, Lawson Mine explosion took the lives of 16 men, including **Julius Persyn**, 31, leaving behind wife **Louise Fabre Jouila**—who he had just married 10 months earlier on December 30, 1909—10-week-old son, **Georges**, born August 23, 1910, and stepson **Henri Jouila, Jr.**

Julius, along with his workmates **Oscar** and **Cezar Bael** and **Civili Maes**—all of Belgium descent—and **Fred Setti**, an Italian, remain entombed in the 6th level of the mine more than 2,000 feet below the surface. The remaining 11 victims' bodies were recovered.

Louise Fabre came to the U.S. in 1903 and resided with brothers **Jules** and **Georges Fabre** in Seattle. Sister **Irene** remained in Europe.

Julius was working as a pillar man at the Lawson Mine as early as 1907, earning \$3 per day. How Julius and Louise met is a mystery.

The news of the mine explosion traumatized Louise severely as she had experienced this before when her first husband, **Henri Jouila**, a coal

miner, was crushed by a tree.

Louise was comforted knowing that Medard, who spoke more fluent English than she did, would be able to help her with Julius' estate and guardianship for young son Georges.

After the estate closed, Louise returned to her family home in Europe where she met and married a Belgium coal miner, **Auguste Bailleul**.

Still traumatized from her previous losses, Louise asked Auguste to change his occupation, which he did. The couple had one child, **Juliette**, in



*Henri Jouila, Jr., Louise Fabre Persyn, Georges Persyn, ca. 1912.*

*Left: Georges Persyn shortly after his birth on August 23, 1910.*

1917, who still survives, although in delicate health.

Louise found herself alone for the third time when Auguste died around 1921 from a lung problem, said her granddaughter, **Catherine Persyn**.

It was then necessary for young son Georges to leave school and become the breadwinner of the family. His uncles in Seattle, Jules and Georges, periodically sent gifts and money to help Louise make ends meet.

Louise, who was born February 20, 1881, died in Cahors, France, in January 1932—still a young woman who endured tragedy throughout her life.

—JoAnne Matsumura  
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# MEMORIAL

*continued from page 1*

Years later, **Gary Habenicht**—whose family migrated from Nortonville, California, with the Black Diamond Coal Co. in the mid-1880s—advanced the idea of a miners' statue at Four Corners where the mine offices of Palmer Coking Coal Co. once stood. The students at Cedar Heights Junior High got together and put a real coal car at Franklin, the site of **Don Mason's** winter tours.

So why couldn't "we" get together and erect a statue to honor the memories of the coal mining families who built Black Diamond and dozens of other coal mining towns and villages?

I place the pronoun "we" in quotation marks as a rejoinder to those who can be heard saying, "We should..."

Every small or grand "we should" idea takes a dedicated individual like **Gomer Evans** to spearhead the project. And someone like **Keith Watson** to temper it. And a researcher like **Ken Fleming** to compile the list of every Washington State coal miner to have met his death in the mine (as recorded in the Annual Coal Mine Inspector's Reports).

And while it's tempting to put forth kudos and congratulations to



PHOTOS: BOB DOBSON

*Top: Workers from Premier Memorial lower the granite wall into place. Left: BDHS President Keith Watson speaks at the Coal Miners' Honor Garden dedication. Right: Pastor Dennis Stebly recited the Miners' Prayer. His grandfather, Frank Stebly, was killed in the Landsburg Mine in 1955.*

**"With pick on shoulder  
and lunch pail in hand,  
his miner's light turned  
the blackness of the  
underworld into the work  
space where he might earn  
a living wage."**

those who are making this statue dream come true, my thoughts harken back to the coal miners.

Whether he was Welsh or Italian, a Croatian or a Pole, he was the man who descended into that darkening slope each day.

He was the man who drilled the coal, primed the dynamite, and lit the fuse. He loaded the coal and he hoisted the coal. He was the fire-boss inspecting the work areas for methane. He was the old miner or

**MEMORIAL**, *continued next page*



Runners (and walkers, too) begin the third-annual Coal Miners' Classic 5K run. The event was started by a blast from the coal mine disaster siren located at the museum. (Photo: Bob Dobson.)



Palmer Coking Coal Company Manager Bill Kombol (right) chats with Ellensburg Artist Paul Crites, who was the sculpter of the bronze coal miner statue. (Photo: Bob Dobson.)

## MEMORIAL

*continued from page 7*

young boy on the picking table separating coal from slag. He was the cager hooking the cable to the coal car at the bottom of the mine and the rope rider traveling with the trip of cars to the tippie. He was the pump man who kept the mines dewatered. And the foreman directing

operations so that there would be work.

The timberman shoring up the gangway, cross-cuts, and counters. The trackman who laid the rails upon which the coal cars rolled. The surveyor who mapped the mine. The mule handler who coaxed the beasts of burden.



The mucker, the trapper, the jig tender, the oiler: He was the man risking his life each day, only to find a blackened face by shift's end.

And on those blackest of days, he was the miner whose death the whole town mourned.

With pick on shoulder and lunch pail in hand, his miner's light turned

the blackness of the underworld into the work space where he might earn a living wage.

So here stands that coal miner, erected as a statue to communicate our collected tribute to his memory.



— Bill Kombol  
PalmerCokingCoal@aol.com





*The bricks were carefully arranged under the supervision of Project Manager Gomer Evans. (Photo: Bob Dobson.)*



*Fire Truck Restoration Project Manager Joe Androsko stands next to Black Diamond's 1947 Ford. Will it be ready for this year's Labor Days? Only time will tell. (Photo: Bob Dobson.)*



*Left: Former mayors Howard Botts (left) and Gomer Evans flank current Mayor Rebecca Olness as they cut the ribbon during dedication ceremonies for the Coal Miners' Honor Garden. (Photo: Ron Olness.)*

*Right: It was all hands on deck when the bronze coal miner statue arrived July 3. (Photo: Bob Dobson.)*

*Below: Judy Watson is standing among a sea of bricks. (Photo: Bob Dobson.)*





# Landsburg Mine

*Little-known miners' memorial is the site of tragedies in 1954 and 1955*

**A**lice Davies, the proprietor of the Confectionery, told 11-year-old **Jerry English** that he needed to go home—that his mother needed him. That was the first indication that something was wrong. *Really* wrong.

It was January 7, 1954, and Jerry's father, **Harry J. English**, was trapped in a cave-in at the Landsburg Mine near Ravensdale. After 4 long hours Harry's 25-year-old partner, **Roy Coutts** of Cumberland, was dug out, but there was no sign of Harry. Hope was fading fast....

"Harry told me that he would drill one more rock and then eat lunch," Roy told *The Seattle Times*. "Then the bottom fell out from under us. I grabbed at a timber, but it fell, too." Roy ended up at the bottom of a coal chute and then was immediately covered by a second cave-in.

"**Jim** [Harry's 16-year-old son] drove to the mine, but when he got there, there was nothing he could do," said Jerry in a recent interview. Rescue workers did however give him Harry's lunch pail.

"There's always a chance he scrambled into a pocket," **Sam Nichols**, president of the United Mine Workers, told the *Seattle P-I* at the time. But rescue crews were struggling to shore up the tons of rock and coal that buried Harry. Included in the rescue crew was his father-in-law, **Harold Lloyd**, and brother-in-law, **Harold, Jr.**

"I hate to say this but there appears to be no hope now. The men are still

working and they are doing everything humanly possible," a clearly shaken Harold told the *P-I* after 17 grueling hours underground.

On January 10, mine rescue crews had to halt attempts at recovering Harry's body. "Mine officials just told me they had to stop their present plan because it was much too dangerous," said **Lily English** at the time.

After 8 nights and 7 days of searching, the mine would become Harry's final resting place.

Three months later Lily abandoned plans to erect a tombstone or hold graveside services at the mine. Instead she presented a lighted cross to the Black Diamond Presbyterian Church on Lawson Street. And she sang in the choir during the dedication, too.

"People expected me to be sad today," she told the *P-I*. "But I'm not sad, I'm happy. I know this is the way Harry would have wanted it."

Officers of the Diamond Masonic Lodge No 83—of which Harry had become the Grand Master just a month earlier—formed a kneeling V where the coffin would have rested.

Sadness would come when the church burnt down in January 1959,



*Lily English clasps the hands of James, at left, and Jerry as they wait for word from the Landsburg Mine. The mother and her boys have shown great courage throughout the ordeal since the accident happened. (Seattle P-I, January 9, 1954.)*

nearly taking the entire town with it. The English home was just 100 feet or so from the church.

A wooden monument was also placed at the site above the surface where Harry was trapped, but sadly it too is now gone—the victim of nearly 60 years of nature unchecked.

Just a little over one year later on January 29, 1955, tragedy would strike again as 4 more miners perished in yet another cave-in at the Landsburg Mine: **Nathan D. Russell** of Carbonado, **Frank Stebly** of Black Diamond, **Louis Vaiente** of Ravensdale, and **John Kovash** of Hobart.

**John Morris**, president of Palmer



Coking Coal Co. and the operator of the mine, said that “water, sand, and gravel was piled on top of the men clear to the surface of the earth”—and only 2,000 feet from where Harry was entombed. “I doubt if we’ll ever get them.”

According to the *Enumclaw Courier-Herald*, “A gaping hole, more than forty feet across, and estimated to be more than a hundred feet deep, was left on the surface directly over where the men had been working.”

On February 19, 1955, an estimated 500 mourners gathered for memorial services at the mine portal led by **Rev. David H. Weed**, the pastor of the Black Diamond Presbyterian Church. Weed also conducted Harry English’s services.

A small organ was unloaded from a pick-up truck to accompany the choir, which included Lily English.



“A lighted cross—a memorial to Harry J. English, Black Diamond miner whose body lies in an accidental grave deep in a coal mine near Ravensdale—was dedicated during a brief service. The miner’s widow, Lily, is pictured singing in choir, at extreme right. At left, near the cross, her sons, James English, 16, and Jerry English, 12 (in light suits), stand beside the pastor, the Rev. David H. Weed.” (*Seattle P-I*, April 4, 1954.)

“Once during the singing of ‘The Old Rugged Cross,’ she was overcome by emotion and buried her face in a handkerchief, only to resume bravely

after a few moments,” reported the *Courier-Herald*.

— Ken Jensen

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## Landsburg Mine memorial



PHOTO: BOB DOBSON

The Landsburg Mine memorial was created after the four miners were lost in that January 29, 1955, disaster. It was impossible to retrieve their bodies as they were buried in water, sand, and gravel. Palmer Coking Coal Co. provided a suitable site which is about 1,000 feet southeast of the actual location where the bodies were lost. When the site was logged by Plum Creek Timber about 30 years ago, they fortunately left a small grove of trees around the memorial which provides a serene setting. If you’d like to visit the site, you need to obtain permission from Palmer Coking Coal Co.

# The legacy of the doll: Frank Bussey's special gift

**F**or weeks I was among the dolls at the company store, having arrived in the summer of 1920. I was made by the Efanbee Doll Company of fine porcelain, glass eyes, human hair, and specially designed clothes.

## A PIONEER *family* ALBUM



**JOANNE  
MATSUMURA**

The company store applied an amount toward the outstanding balance each payday and eventually I was brought to company house #188, the home of **Francis "Frank"**

**Bussey**, a Mine

11 coal miner of several decades, and **Andrew** and **Alice Bussey Haag, Jr.**, Frank's son-in-law and daughter.

I was to be Santa's Christmas gift for **Dorothy Haag**, Frank's granddaughter.

*The tragic events of December 22, 1920, however, intervened.*

The rooms were filled with grief, sadness, and tears from family, friends, workers, and mine officials.

The loss took the lives of four miners in an instant. The community gathered at families' homes, bringing food and gifts.

I was lovingly cradled by Dorothy, a child too young to grasp the severity of the loss. She would never see her grandfather again. Dorothy only knew that the doll was a special gift from

him—one to be treasured and cherished.

Frank, a timberman with pillar crew workmates **Joe Grill**, **Charles Heavilin**, and **Frank Nivone**, were working in Mine 11, ½-mile below the surface on the 11th level.

Andrew and his brother, **Sam Haag**, were working next to Frank—in fact the three had just had lunch together. Within minutes of leaving Frank, they heard a crash and just missed death by a whisker themselves, Andrew later told his wife, as he and Sam scrambled to the surface via an air shaft.

Andrew sounded the Mine 11 siren and other miners began removing the tons of debris in hopes of finding the trapped miners alive.

The community rushed to the

mouth of the mine to await word—hoping for survivors....

For many years I was carefully stored in a box until those December days when I was brought out and kept on Dorothy's bed. I could feel her sadness for the grandfather she only knew from stories and photographs.

If only I could tell her how he choose me over the other dolls—it may have been a resemblance, the touch of human hair, the dainty dress that he may have wished he could give to Dorothy.

In time Dorothy grew to adulthood and gave me a special place in her home. She understood the details of the mine accident: a cave-in—or a "bump," as it was called—but understanding didn't fill the void.

She married **Harry Johnson** and remained in Black Diamond.

Dorothy had one daughter, Carolyn, and four boys, and I was pleased that I was given to Carolyn—a special gift from her great-grandfather. Carolyn cared for me through the years, and in time gave me the name of *Dorothy Francis* in memory of Dorothy Haag and Francis Bussey.

**Carolyn Johnson Christopher** gave me to the Black Diamond Historical Society in 2006 to be exhibited with the other dolls in a place of honor—to greet visitors who enter as a tribute to Frank Bussey, Joe Grill, Charles Heavilin, and Frank Nivone. ☘

—JoAnne

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# In memoriam

*Gone but not forgotten*

## Inez Costi Aden

Accomplished one of her many goals on April 7, when she celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends. She was born in Black Diamond to **Alfonso** and **Ida Costi**.

"I hope I can keep up and reach April 7," she wrote last winter. "I can't believe I've lived so long." She passed away June 11, 2013.

She attended Black Diamond schools, graduating in 1931. She



married **Garland Aden** in 1939, and they lived in Cumberland for 37 years.

He passed away in 1975. Inez moved back to Black Diamond and was an active member at the Black Diamond Community Center.

"Black Diamond is a spot in my heart that will never be forgotten," she wrote on her holiday greeting card last year to a member.

She was a lifetime member since 1976 and her contributions came in many ways.

Inez is survived by her son **Donald Aden** and his wife **Virginia**, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

## Mary Carnino Byron,

daughter of **Louis** and **Tersilla Carnino**, was born February 18, 1918, in Black Diamond, and passed away on March 30, 2013.

Mary attended Black Diamond schools and graduated in 1936. She married **Robert Emmett Byron, Jr.** in 1941,



and in 1948 they moved to Hoquiam and raised a family of eight children.

She was devoted to her family, church, and to Byron Brothers, Inc., as their bookkeeper for more than 30 years. Her generosity and kindness to the society are appreciated.

"She attended the school reunion [in 2012] with her brother Barney and they had a wonderful time," wrote her daughters **Jacqueline** and **Kathleen**.

Mary is survived by her children, **Judy, Diane, Chris, Bob, Pat, Jacqueline**, and **Kathleen**; and grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband **Bob**, son **Michael Louis**, brothers, **Ang** and **John**, and granddaughter **Danielle Henry**.

## Thomas J. Wieltschnig,

a coal miner, railroad worker, World War II veteran, and lifetime society member since 1976 passed away on April 10, 2013, at 99. His loyalty to the society will always be remembered.



He was born in Black Diamond on November 4, 1913, graduating from Black Diamond High in 1932. He married Lois B. Gormley of Black Diamond and celebrated 70 years together.

Tom worked at the Indian Mine from 1932 to 1939, the Pacific Coast and Burlington Northern railroads from 1941 to 1978, and served his country with the Navy several years on a destroyer in the South Pacific during the war.

Tom is survived by his wife Lois, sons Michael David and Steven Paul, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters, and a brother.

# Thanks for the memories

## Lois Annette Read Anderson

February 10, 1923 – May 11, 2013

*Former postmistress of Selleck*

## Rose Marie Gamba Carnefix

October 15, 1938 – April 16, 2013

*Daughter of Nettie Maxine Niles Gamba*

## Mary Cecelia Horther

October 29, 1912 – January 2, 2013

*Grandmother of David H. Young*

## Arthur Stanley Marshall

December 27, 1917 – June 15, 2013

*Born in Veazie*

## Joseph Mihalik

May 18, 1923 – March 16, 2013

*Black Diamond pioneer family*

## Fred Silvestri

February 4, 1918 - April 10, 2013

*Black Diamond pioneer family*

## Charles Dwight Young

February 4, 1938 – May 17, 2013

*Brother of Jeanne Maier*

## Society centenarian

### Lannie Magdalene Sternig

**Witt** will be 100 on July 21. The Sternigs ran the Diamond Café in the depot/museum and owned the Morganville Tavern when it was Teeny's. "Every morning I celebrate my birthday," she quipped.



# 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:

**Inez Aden,**  
by Don Aden and Linda Maki

**Mary Carnino Byron,**  
by Kathleen M. & Jacqueline Byron

**Harry J. English,**  
by Palmer Coking Coal Co., LLP

**Thomas H. Havard,**  
by Palmer Coking Coal Co., LLP

**John Henry,**  
by Palmer Coking Coal Co., LLP

**Helmie (Sundberg) Kombol,**  
by William & Jennifer Kombol

**John F. Kovash,**  
by Palmer Coking Coal Co., LLP

**Lewis James Kranz,**  
by Palmer Coking Coal Co., LLP

**Ervin "Dale" Mackie,**  
by Palmer Coking Coal Co., LLP

**Jeanne Maier,**  
by Beth Van Buskirk & Julia Anne Young



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

**Nathan D. Russell,**  
by Palmer Coking Coal Co., LLP

**Frank T. Stasiak,**  
by Palmer Coking Coal Co., LLP

**Frank Stebly,**  
by Palmer Coking Coal Co., LLP

**Louis Vaienti,**  
by Palmer Coking Coal Co., LLP

**Thomas J. Wieltschnig,**  
by Lois B. Wieltschnig

**Archive preservation fund:**  
Dennis & Sherrie Acker

**Fire truck restoration:**  
Morris Family Trust

## General fund:

James & Cathy Bradley

Robert & Anna Marie Duncan

Marlene Kim

Lee & Julie D. Marlenee

Dennis & Julianne McNeeley

Judy Anne Young & Muriel Waldo in honor of Howard & Dorothy Botts' 60th wedding anniversary

## Newsletter fund:

Lynne Evans Bonnell

Donna Marie Bortko

Stacey Chisam

Pioneer Place LLC

## Welsh Heritage Day fund:

Seattle Welsh Women's Club

# 864

Number of guests visiting the museum during the second quarter of 2013.

# Be our guest

During the months of April through May, the museum had 864 guests. Visitors hailed from 12 states—Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New York, Oregon, South Dakota and, of course, Washington—as well as from the Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, and the United Kingdom.

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



Nice collection—well displayed

Love the notes on the artifacts

Very informative—impressive collection

Great piece of history

Great job & so many memories

Loved the phone booth

Very nice collection—wonderful assortment

Very neat, lots of stuff to look at

Great learning experience

Don Mason gave us an informative talk—Thanks

Museum looks great

Really, really nice—keep it up

Loved all the old history

The train is really cool

Very well preserved—Love it

Incredible history



# Welcome new and renewing members

The Black Diamond Historical Society now has 354 members. We are pleased to welcome our newest members this quarter:

Don Aden  
 Bob Beers  
 Jerry English  
 MaryLou Galvin  
 Rick & Lois Darby  
 Steve Parkin  
 Karen Lavendar Peterson  
 Heath & Keonna Rainwater  
 Danny & Kathi Shay


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

Sherrie Acker  
 Lynne M. Bonnell  
 Donna Marie Bortko  
 Cathy & Jim Bradley  
 Stacey Chisam  
 Nonie Coby  
 Robert R. Dobson  
 Cheryl Dubbs  
 Bob & Anna Marie Duncan  
 Daniel A. & Jennifer Hutson  
 Don & Sandra King  
 Betty & Ruby F. Lamantea


Richard L. Major  
 David & Janet McCrindle  
 Dennis & Julianne McNeeley  
 Steve & Lori Metschan  
 Scott & Mary Peterson  
 Enrico Rosato  
 Laura Saftich  
 Judy Salome  
 Deryl & Dorothy Sleight  
 Doug Wagner  
 Eric & Doris Watson  
 Fred & Patty Weston  
 Allen County Public Library  
 Palmer Coking Coal Co.



"In 1909 Ravensdale was one of the largest towns in the state, thriving by mining coal. On November 15, 1915, near this site, an explosion destroyed the mine, killing 31 men. Ravensdale became a ghost town overnight." This 1989 memorial is located across the street from the Ravensdale Market. (Photo: Bob Dobson.)



## 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**

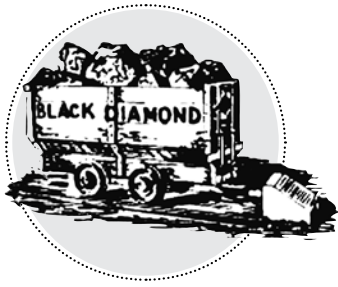
Mail to:

**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)



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[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.

## Making memories at Black Diamond Labor Days

*Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, August 31, September 1 & 2*

The museum will be open all weekend, too, including Monday.

Go here for details:

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

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



*This totally groovy 1968 photo from BDHS Treasurer Don Malgarini's personal collection shows an out of sight Labor Day float heading down the Third Avenue (SR-169) parade route before turning into the ball park. Note the Boots Tavern float in the background. If you can identify any of the folks pictured here, that'd be like far out. Peace, man, and hope to see you at the ball park in 2013.*