



BULLETIN

Black Diamond Historical Society
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We're a few bricks short of a full walkway

No matter the season, it is always a good time to order that special gift. The Black Diamond Historical Society has pavers to honor a special someone or memorialize a loved one.

Order sheets are available by calling the museum at 360-886-2142

ANDREW HAAG JR 1882-1951 MINER GRANDPA	FATHER SENATO SIGNANI	JOANNAH FUSCO WASHINGTON MINER WIFE/MOTHER OF 9	
AERAMO FENACCHI POWER MINER AND CARPENTER	JOHN TOMAN FRANKLIN MINER	JOSEPH SHIMMEL LOVING HUSBAND FATHER & MINER	
HONGKING WELSH MINER - PUGET SOUND WELSH ASSN	WILLIAM LEE GEORGE & HOWARD MOSES-ELK COAL	JACK & SYDNE DAVIS GIVING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY	
THE DAVIS FAMILY MARK, KATHY, SARA AND TETH	GIOVANNI DELAURIO BLACK DIAMOND MINER	ROBERT SIMPSON 1843-1930 SUP NEW INDIAN MINE	
HALES - FRANKLIN LOVING LEGACY WILLIAM DAVIES	AL (HACK) WEST WIFE THERESA 35 YR COAL MINER	ROBERT KONOSKES COAL MINER BLACK DIAMOND	
HUBERT KRAVOSKA	VIDO PRKACIN AKA BILL PARKERSON MINER 1889-1969	SALAMI C ANSELMO 1908 1989 IN AT 12 YEARS OUT AT 62	
FRED BENIDETTI GEORGE FRANKLIN COAL MINERS	DRIVING GANGWAY F JOHN LAINE	CUT KRAVAGNA VERA HUGHES RAY PAUL MINER	JOANNE MATSUMURA ARCHIVIST 22 YEARS

PHOTO: BOB DOBSON

Brick pavers for the Coal Miners' Honor Garden are going fast, but there's still space available. This is your opportunity to remember the coal miners who were killed or injured on the job and the people who helped establish the towns that supported coal mining. The pavers are \$100 each and the proceeds will help support the memorial project.



Black Diamond Historical Society

Volume 38 NO.1: Spring 2014

◆ BULLETIN ◆

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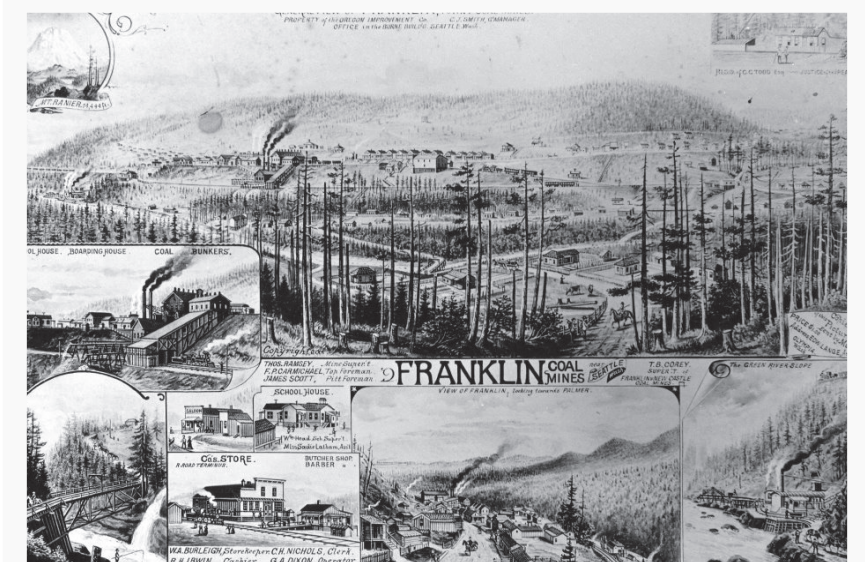
Drawing of Franklin C 1891.

The last tour is leaving the station for Franklin.

The Black Diamond Historical Society is conducting its final tour of the year of the former coal mining town of Franklin on Saturday, March 1.

Franklin was a company-owned coal mining town in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The town site was nestled alongside the Green River Gorge and has many cement foundations, a 1,300-foot coal mine shaft, cemetery, and other reminders of what it was like when coal was king in the King County area.

If you're unfamiliar with the town's history, check out Franklin: Everything You Always Wanted to Know, <http://blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com/2011/02/04/franklin-everything-you-always-wanted-to-know/>. If you wish to go on the tour, please see the schedule on page 4.





BULLETIN

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. (TIN51-0170304).

PRESIDENT Keith Watson

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Susie Thompson
David Watson

EDITOR Leih Mulvihill

PHOTOGRAPHER Bob Dobson

ARTICLES

Black diamond bulletin invites articles for publication. Articles may be edited for style, length, and clarity. Please contact the society if you wish to submit an article, museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org

CONTACT

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WEB

www.blackdiamondmuseum.org
www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory
www.blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com
www.twitter.com/BD_History

HOURS

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



This is a Beginning....

I'm not going to bore you with a resume of experience explaining why I would be a good Editor for the Bulletin, (I'll let Keith do that!). What I am going to tell you is that I'll miss Ken Jensen as the Editor. I found his newsletters to be enjoyable, easy to read and something I looked forward to receiving on a quarterly basis. Now that I don't have that to look forward to, and neither do you, we'll just have to make due with what we have! Me. His are big shoes to fill and it's going to take me a while grow into them.

Of my many passions in life, writing, graphics design and local history are all right up there. I recently earned my BA and was working on my MBA where research was a real joy. I liked looking things up and putting my take to a thesis. I liked the research, the digging and the learning. Because of a personal loss I had to stop working on my MBA and have missed those processes. I am very much looking forward to doing it again!

A MESSAGE from the EDITOR



**LEIH
MULVIHILL**

It has occurred to me that not all our members are facebook friendly or 'surf' the web. While everyday pictures and brief paragraphs of information are posted regularly on these sites, not everyone gets to enjoy them. So for awhile, as I get accustomed and grow into this role as Editor, I will be borrowing material from not only our facebook page but the blog as well.

If you have an idea for an article or theme, want to see something different in the Bulletin, have an article you want to submit or just have a story to tell, send it to leih@tx3.net. For those not so tech savvy, write it up and drop it off at either the Museum or my shop, *The Dazzled Dame!* with a phone number and/or email address so I can contact you with any questions.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve you and lets enjoy this adventure together, shall we?

"History will be kind to me for I intend to write it."
Winston Churchill

~Leih Mulvihill
leih@tx3.net

WELCOME NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

By Jean Boston, Membership Chair

The Black Diamond Historical Society now has 338 memberships.

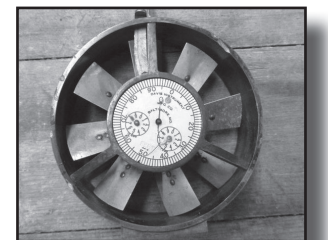
We are pleased to announce that during this past quarter we have acquired the following new memberships:

Susan Thielken Askey
Andy and Mindy Carlino
George Cooper
Leonard Folino (LIFE)
Steve Jones
Ralph Lapham
Frances Potocnik
Jackie Taylor

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


Betty Blakeney (now a LIFE member)
Bill & Jean Boston
Margaret (Peggy) Bullard & family
Bob and Jodine Burke
Don and Carmel Camerini
Sue Dringler
Steve Fontana
Carl Falk and Georgia Grove
Michael and Felicidad Groves
Carolyn Herrera
Jerrine L. Hope
Gerald and Nancy Kuzaro
Edward Andrew Johnson
Joseph G Lapham
Virginia Lindstrom
Pete and Dahni Logar
Donald and Joan Malgarini
Frank Manowski
Dr. Richard and Shari Mariotti
George and Martha McPherson
Ted and Leona Myers

Aaron, Michele, Austin and Payton Nix
Ron and Rebecca Olness
Bill Olson
Mike Parkin
Janice Ranton
Randy and Sharon Roberts
Tony and Tizziana Sivitilli and family
Douglas and Alison Stern
Rebecca Teeters
Louis and Kay Traverso
Joan Traylor
Southport Land and Commercial Company
Taff Roofing, Inc.
Ralph and Betty Uhrig
Rose M. Vetter



An Anemometer, used to measure air volume.

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)

1254

Number of guests
visiting the
museum during the
fourth quarter of
2013

Be Our Guest

During September thru December 2013 the Museum had a total of 1254 guests. There were visitors from 19 States: Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, as well as Washington. There were also people visiting from other Countries, such as France, Italy and Thailand.

Comments

Wonderful collection	Incredible place.	Thank you for preserving history
Thanks for an interesting history lesson; your work is important!	Wonderful! I like the maps	Wonderful place, Wonderful people
Wonderful collection	Very well done, really liked our tour	Learned a great deal
Very educational	So very interesting – much to see	Love this little place of history – very impressed
Great museum. We loved learning about the history	Very cool items	Great volunteers
Very similar to Coal Country Altoona, PA	Grandfather worked in coal mines in BD	I love the blacksmith tools
	Enjoyed tools displays	Outstanding exhibits
	Very friendly folks	This museum makes me smile



Replacement of part of the wood board walk with a wood looking cement board walk – it's not slippery like wood and people love it's look; New energy efficient lighting in the auditorium – a new look that is maintenance free and free of ultraviolet light; a 70 inch High Definition Smart TV installed in the auditorium for museum presentations and guest presentations.

Seattle Seahawks, SUPERBOWL winners for 2014 – what a joy to watch the game at the museum on the new high definition 70" smart TV with surround sound. The new TV will really be an asset when we present programs to interested history students and the public at large. The TV was used for the slide show before the Franklin tours and the clarity was really appreciated. During our open hours the TV will be showing historic pictures of Black Diamond and its environs with the same clarity. Dave Watson has been busy working with these presentations. Smart TV's are able to wirelessly show presentation from a smart phone, a tablet and a lap top so our guest speaker will be able to benefit from such technology.



The Comings & Goings of the Black Diamond Historical Society

As you can see we have a new editor for the Society's newsletter and she is an old friend of the Society. Her name is Leih Mulvihill and

A MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT



KEITH
WATSON

President's letter
Feb 2014

she lives in Black Diamond with her husband Tom. She has newsletter editing experience and is a life time member of the Black Diamond Historical Society. She is a former Black Diamond City Council member and is very aware of the city's history and future plans. Leih is also a business owner and has a store, "The Dazzled Dame", located at four corners Maple Valley across from Fred Meyer where she features ladies fashion goods. We are pleased to welcome Leih; welcome her with a visit to her store; she would love to meet you.

I want to thank our former editor Ken Jensen for the wonderful work he has done in the last three years in editing our newsletter the "Bulletin". Ken continues to help us with facebook at (www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory), twitter (www.twitter.com/BD_History), and the blog (www.black-diamondhistory.wordpress.com).

He puts interesting pictures and information into these social communicating media's. I also want to thank JoAnne Matsumura for her contributions over the years to the newsletter and to others who have written stories or written comments for the newsletter. We are always looking for stories and comments about our city, county, and state but especially about people. Please feel free to share items from your history, good times, not so good times, and things you remember about Black Diamond and its environs.

For many years we had the pleasure of having a bookstore next door to the museum. That changed this year with a new business owned by Brenda Everson that specializes in antiques. It already has attracted many customers and many of them come to the museum to see the Coal Miners Honor Garden, the museum grounds, and inside the museum. Welcome Brenda and we enjoy having you and your team as neighbors.

The Coal Miners Honor Garden is very special and inspiring place to visit. We see many people day and night stopping to read the inscriptions, look at the wall, the paver bricks, and above all the coal miners' statue that was sculptured by artist Paul Crites. The visitors

take pictures from all angles and as the light from the sun or clouds change they take even more pictures. The over 1100 hundred coal miners that perished in Washington State coal mines are memorialized on the granite wall and the people who made this honor garden possible are engraved on the paver bricks. Thanks to all who did not

NOTICE

**Black Diamond Historical Society
General Membership Meeting
When: April 27, 2014 at 1PM
Where: At the Museum**

**Membership Committee will be
bringing forward Dues Increase
for membership to vote on**

forget those hard working coal miners and the thousands of coal miners who helped found the many coal mining communities in Washington State including Black Diamond. (see pictures page 7) We try to keep history alive; thanks for your continued support.

~Keith

kcwdoc@comcast.net

"We would like to live as we once lived, but history will not permit it."

John F. Kennedy



2nd Franklin Tour Schedule March 1, 2014

12 – 12:30 p.m.: Meet at the Black Diamond Museum. You may park in the Eagles parking lot. Fill out the Hold Harmless Agreement, <http://www.blackdiamondmuseum.org/documents/hold-harmless.pdf>, and drop your donation in the container at the front desk.

12:30 – 12:45 p.m.: Attend the orientation in the museum auditorium. Receive a map of Franklin and pictures related to the tour.

1 p.m.: Drive your vehicle, caravan-style, to the Franklin town site.

1:15 p.m.: Meet Tour Director Don Mason. Be prepared for a rugged 1½-mile hike on rough terrain.

Enjoy the foliage, hear the river, see the sites, and hear the Franklin stories that Don Mason will share with the group about this ghost town.

We would appreciate a \$5 donation for each attendee except for minors, seniors, BDHS members, and veterans.

Wear hiking boots and clothing suitable for the weather.

Check with your doctor for clearance to engage in strenuous activity.

Have a good time. ◆



Photo: Wilma Fineberg

First Tour Pictures



Photo by Michael Highsmith



Obituaries

Henry "Hank" C. Barnes, Jr

November 17, 1927 - December 16, 2013
Resided in Black Diamond, WA



Hank, "Uncle Hank", to most everyone in Black Diamond died December 16th in Enumclaw at the age of 86. He married Bernice Cartwright in 1955. Hank worked for Kenworth Truck Company, retiring in 1990 after 45 years of loyal service. He was preceded in death by his wife Bernice, his mother, father, and brother. Hank is survived by his children Gail Barnes of Amboy, WA, Russell Barnes of Fort Worth TX, Charlotte Berg of Auburn, WA, and Mary Lewis of Buckley, WA; two sisters Marie Evens and Hazella Peterson both of Black Diamond, WA; and his many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Hank loved living in Black Diamond and often would say how much he loved his old house, which he bought in 1955 and raised his family in. Many in town will remember Hank sitting on his front porch and waving to all who honked at him. Hank will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Lynda Maks, 93,
died Jan. 1, 2014,
at her home in Black Diamond.

She was born in Renton and raised in Black Diamond.

At low tide she could be found gunning razor clams from Pacific beaches. At high tide she could be found organizing happy hour, cheering for the Mariners or Seahawks, or cashing in at the slot machines. She is survived by her son Richard Robertson and brothers, Leo, Joe and Roy Dal Santo.

A celebration of her life for family and friends was 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12, at the Black Diamond Eagles.

In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to the Children's Hospital in Seattle.



Donald H. King

March 3, 1930 - October 22, 2013
Resided in Buckley, WA



Donald (Don) H. King, 83, of Buckley died October 22, 2013. He was born March 3, 1930 in Renton and raised in Black Diamond on Lake Sawyer. Don joined the U.S. Navy; he served 20 years as Chief Boatswains Mate. He enjoyed restoring vintage cars, fishing, and visiting his buddies at the old watering hole.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years Sandie King of Buckley, plus stepsons, a brother and sisters. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Margaret Madill; and seven brothers and sisters.

Internment service, Friday, November 8, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, WA with military honors.

Don became a member of BDHS in 2012.

Helen Margaret Manowski

August 1, 1919 - November 22, 2013



Resided in Enumclaw, WA Enumclaw resident Helen Margaret Manowski, age 94, died November 22, 2013. She was born August 1, 1919 in Tacoma to Andrew and Matilda (Odegaard) Strom. She was employed at Mutual of Enumclaw as a claims secretary for 23 years. Helen enjoyed her family, playing cards, bingo, crafting, sewing, and traveling. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and Rebekah's for over 50 years; Black Diamond Eagles woman's auxiliary; Black Diamond Museum; Dorcus Circle; and she was also a wedding coordinator at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Helen is survived by her son Frank Manowski of Enumclaw; 4 grandchildren: Wendy (Dave) Preston, Trina (Wade) McBride, Heidi Vogelpohl, and Ryan (Angie) Manowski; and 8 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents Andrew and Matilda Strom and her husband Frank.

Remembrances in Helen's name can be made to, Trinity Lutheran Building Fund 1535 Washington Ave., Enumclaw, WA 98022 or Black Diamond Museum PO Box 232, Black Diamond, WA 98010 Helen was a charter life member, joining in 1976.

Donations

We wish to thank the following for their generous donations to the black diamond historical society.

In Memory of:

**Helen Bremmyer,
Brian Ecret,
Tom Evans,
Jerry Gauthier,
Bill Harp,
Bob Jorgensen,
Ruby Androsko Keeney,
Stan Konoski,
Harold Lemire,**
by Arlene Parkin

Linda Maks,
by Gregory & Cecelia Morris

Helen Margaret Manowski,
by Gerald & Nancy Kuzaro, Byron & Janie Parkinson, William

*Kombol of Palmer Coking Coal Co, LLP,
Glenn & Nancy MacCorkle,
Sharon & Arthur Storbo,
Gregory and Cecelia Morris*

Jerid Thompson,
by Arlene Parkin

**Honoriam Donations:
Bill Bremmeyer**
by Brenda Moody

Fire Truck Restoration Fund Donations:
Virginia Lindstrom

Julianne, Janie and Joyce Parkinson in memory of Jules Dal Santo Louis and Kay Traverso

General Fund Donations

*Donna Marie Bortko,
Bill Bremmeyer,
Bob and Jodine Burke,
Don & Carmel Camerini,
Vanessa Kretchmar,
Gerald & Nancy Kuzaro,
Jacqueline Lafrance,
Daryl & Norine McCauley,
Matthew & Lori McCormick,
Ron & Rebecca Olness,
Tony & Tizziana Sivitilli & family,
Douglas & Alison Stern,
Ralph & Betty Uhrig*

Newsletter Fund Donations:

*Sue Dringle
Aaron, Michele, Austin & Payton Nix
Louis & Kay Traverso*



Welsh Heritage Day Fund Donation:
Margaret Stanley in honor of William Trevylian Thomas, & Margaret Thomas Jensen



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

These donations are greatly appreciated. The Black Diamond Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the Law.



Photo by Keith Watson

The Fire Truck January 2014 with Gomer Evans, Duane Cameron, Project Manager Joe Androsko and Keith Watson.

It may not look like it but it is still scheduled to be completed by Miners Day in July 2014.

"Historian: an unsuccessful novelist."

H. L. Mencken

Something About Franklin

Originally published in the Enumclaw Overland, January 8, 1891

January 8, 2014 by Black Diamond History

Two miles beyond Black Diamond, on the Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad, is the Oregon Improvement Company's Franklin Mine and the town of Franklin on the Green River. The location of this town is most romantic, built on the narrow shelves of the precipitous wall of the Green River canyon, about 600 feet above the rushing water.

The river has cut a narrow and deep gorge, through which it rushes and tumbles over cascades. The scenery is of the wildest and most rugged character. The town of Franklin contains about 500

people.

The output of the mine this year has been reduced, owing to the fact that the company has employed its force in developing another vein. As soon as the slope which is now being driven

The location of this town is most romantic,

is completed, the product of the mine will be greatly increased. In this mine is employed one of the most powerful and best engines on the Pacific Coast.

Franklin is the terminus of the Columbia & Puget Sound Rail-

road. It terminates at a point only about three miles distant from the Cascade Line of the Northern Pacific at Palmer. ♦

Bess the Mule: A Coalmining Story of 1914

HistoryLink.org Essay 8651

http://historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=8651

Reprinted from *The Seattle Star*, Thursday, February 19, 1914, p. 8

MULES ARE CHEAP; THEREFORE BESS KEEPS ON TOILING

By Fred L. Boalt

FRANKLIN, Feb. 19 -- There is no room in business for sentimental nonsense.

If you are to show a balance on the right side of the ledger, you cannot be over-careful of the lives of men or the comfort of mules.

Being a practical man, I am led to make these observations after visiting the Cannon mine, here, to find out how Andrew Churnick and Mike Vabcanick, experienced miners, died — and why.

Viewed sentimentally, the disaster of last Monday was lamentable. One may feel sorry for men and mules that work in mines. But I cannot find that the Pacific Coast Coal Co. was in any way to be blamed for the tragedy.

Its business is to GET OUT THE COAL.

When I reached the mouth of the mine I met Toby, the Slav mule-skinner, and Bess, his mule.

Never have I seen such a ramshackle animal as this rack of bones. Her wobbly legs are swollen and bleeding. Her emaciated body is a mass of harness sores. Her mangy hide, stretched tight as a drumhead, shows every bone. Between bones are deep cavities where flesh ought to be. She had just strength enough left to drag the cars.

"Some Mule," I observed.

Toby, the tow-headed, regarded his beast without pride.

"Bess he dam' tired," he said.

We talked. It seemed Bess was once a fine and prideful mule. Good mules cost money. Mule experts disagree as to which of two policies brings the best returns on an investment in mules.



Bess the mule at Franklin Coal Mine, March 17, 1914. Photo by Curtis and Miller, Courtesy Washington State Historical Society (Neg. No. 28220)

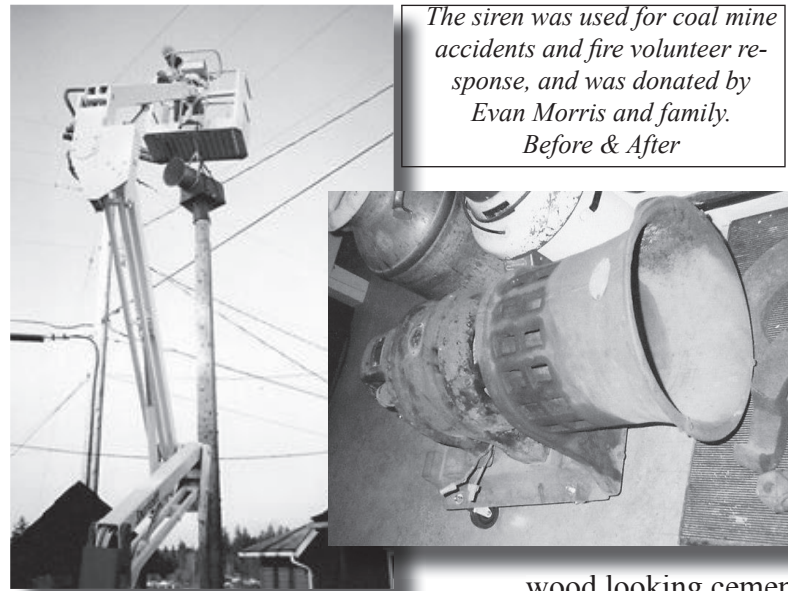
Some say the better policy is to feed a mule well, and work it reasonable hours, for then it will live long.

But the Pacific Coast Coal Co. has found that mules are tough and hard to kill, and that if you work a mule 24 hours a day, it will, while it lasts, do the work of three mules work

MULE cont on page 10

Our Projects Over the Past Few Years

by Keith Watson



The siren was used for coal mine accidents and fire volunteer response, and was donated by Evan Morris and family. Before & After

The Society has had many interesting special projects over the last several years. Here's the list: **the Black Diamond fire siren** – restored and in use for special occasions; **the 1943 Plymouth locomotive** – cosmetically restored with working whistle and bell and so popular with the young visitors; **the Washington State Coal Miners Honor Garden** on the grounds of the museum – visited by hundreds of people and still growing with custom paver brick orders arriving every week; **replacement of part of the wood board walk** with a

wood looking cement board walk – it's not slippery like wood and people love it's look; **new energy efficient lighting** in the auditorium – a new look that is maintenance free and free of ultraviolet light; a **70 inch High Definition Smart TV** installed in the auditorium for museum presentations and guest presentations. The project that will

Restoration made possible by Gomer Evans, along with Bill Bremmeyer, Harry Berry, Bill Kombol, Rand Harris, Steve Paulshack, Jackie Hope, Don Malgarini, Andy Williamson, and others restored the siren in 2009.

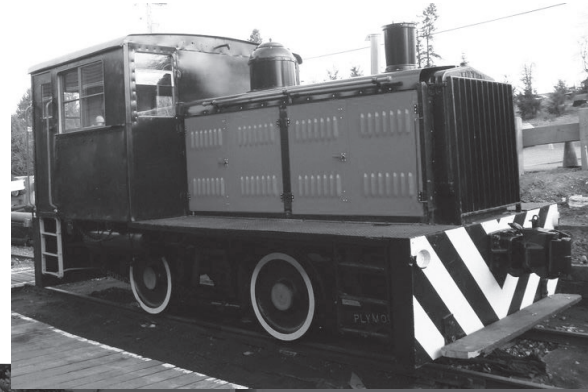
hopefully be completed in time for this summer is the restored **Black Diamond Fire Truck** that was saved from the junk yard by our member Joe Androsko. He along with his volunteer friends are turning a rusty piece of history into a gem of a fire truck that will be available to represent the Society in local events. This has been a project of love with all sorts of



Above, Lifting the train off the tracks and onto a flatbed truck. Center - The Before picture right after it arrived, Pictured are Coke Roberts, Keith Watson and Howard Botts. Top right, Train after restoration!



items, expertise, and labor being donated by high quality people who have a passion for completing this wonderful project. None of these projects would have been possible without the volunteers and donations that the Society has been blessed with through the years. Thanks to all who have helped us grow.



items, expertise, and labor being donated by high quality people who have a passion for completing this wonderful project. None of these projects would have been possible without the volun-

Danville *cont from page 9*

four headstones honoring their memory.

The Landsburg mine finally closed in 1961 after 24 years of mining in which nearly 663,000 tons of coal were produced. That operation was succeeded by the Rogers No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 mines (No. 1: 1959-1963, No. 2: 1960-1967, No. 3: 1963-1975), which continued extraction from a parallel coal seam named for Enoch Rogers, the bulldozer operator who discovered it. The Rogers No. 3 mine was finally blasted shut on December 17, 1975, distinguishing it as the last underground coal mine in the state of Washington. PCCC continued to operate surface mines near Danville on the Fraser and Landsburg coal seams from 1975 to 1977, after which all coal mining in the area ceased.

In addition to coal deposits, Danville was rich in timber resources. The forests south of the Summit-Landsburg Road were most recently harvested in 1987 and those on the north side in 1993. In 2001, Tahoma School District opened Tahoma Junior High, a modern two-story building for eighth and ninth-graders, on property purchased from Plum Creek Timber. It is located one-half mile west of the original site of the Danville mine. In 2013, this school housed approximately 1,200 students.

Sources:

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- Danville Mine, a letter dated June 13, 1926 from George Watkin Evans to N.D. Moore, Vice President, Pacific Coast Coal Co.
- State of Washington Coal Mine Inspector Reports: 1896-1962
- "Ravensdale & Danville Coal Mines: 1896-1977" production records from State of Washington Coal Mine Inspector Reports and from Palmer Coking Coal Company records
- King County Road Files No. 1930, No. 1930B, and No. 24-22-6 (Morris Mine Connection), King County Department of Transportation, Maps and Records Center
- "Danville Mine" – Enumclaw Courier-Herald, November

26, 1937

- Coal and Coal Mining in Washington by Stephen H. Green, Report of Investigations No. 4 (1943) and No. 4R (1947).
- Report of Fatal Accident, John Henry at the New Landsburg Mine, October 29, 1951 by W.J. Evans, Chief Coal Mine Inspector
- "Coal Mining Industry Continues Its Slow Decline in State of Washington" – Seattle Times, Pictorial section, February 22, 1953, pages 8-10
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mine, Region II Accident Prevention and Health Division, Report on Fatal Cave-In Accident and Rescue Efforts, Landsburg Mine, January 6-14, 1954 by L.H. McGuire, Mining Engineer
- Report of Fatal Accident, January 29, 1955, 4:00 a.m. at the Landsburg Mine of the Palmer Coking Coal Company, Ravensdale, Washington by C.R. Holmes, Chief Coal Mine Inspector, State of Washington
- "Families Mourn Four Ravensdale Victims" – Seattle Times, January 30, 1955, page 14
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A Christmas in Black Diamond

by Keith Watson

This Christmas was exciting in that we had our regular get together at the museum with singing; goodies, and white elephant exchange plus we had another happening on another day called the "Old Fashion Christmas" event. Featured was co-operation with other businesses on Railroad Avenue which included the Bakery, the La Bella Vita shop, the Smokehouse & More, the new Antique mall; and the Pizza Deli. All, including the museum, were visited several times by young women dressed in old fashion clothing, visited by a caroling group from the High Road Church on Lawson, who sang their hearts



Pastor Tom, High Road Church, leading the carolers, Hometown Christmas 2013

Photos by Keith Watson

out, and museum volunteers put up a 18 foot lighted Christmas tree outside between the Antique Mall and the museum along with Santa and his reindeer display. Thanks Bill Bremmeyer for the tree and thanks to all who volunteered to make this old fashion Christmas such a success. The museum shared a live Santa, Tom Mulvihill, with the Black Diamond Bakery



Elsie Parkin going over her Wish List with Santa!

for kids and some adults to visit and have their photos taken. What a fun time and thanks to those who made this event really so enjoyable.

MULE cont from page 5

-ing eight-hour shifts.

Bess, Toby told me, had worked four months, 24 hour shifts! It's hard to believe that even a mule could stand it. And on a diet of hay at that!

Toby said Bess snatched ten-minute naps, STANDING UP, between trips!

When Bess dies, the company will buy another mule.

The Seattle Star, Friday, February 20, 1914, p. 1

COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY TO AID BESS, THE MULE

The King County Humane society promises to put an end to the practice of the Pacific Coast Coal Co., which has found that by working mules in its mines continually without a rest until they die, more work can be accomplished than by working the animals in shifts.

Fred L. Boalt, special writer for The Page 10

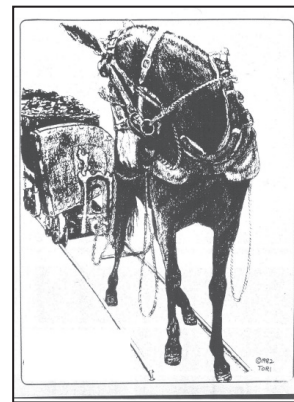
Star, found such a condition upon arriving in Franklin, Wash., to "cover" an accident in the Cannon coal mine.

The story appeared in Thursday's Star; and, acting immediately, the humane society assigned Officer Vaupel and Mrs. S. A. Hollabaugh to investigate.

The Seattle Star, Wednesday, February 25, 1914, p. 1

HUMANE AGENT RESCUES BESS; TO MAKE ARREST

"Bess," the mule which worked 24 hours a day in the Pacific Coast Coal Co.'s mine at Franklin, Wash., is enjoying a much-needed rest today as a result of prompt action by the King County Humane society, following publication of an article regarding her in The Star.



An arrest will be made at the mine today, as a consequence.

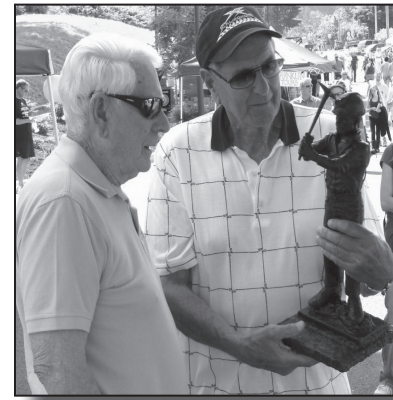
Fred L. Boalt, The Star's special writer discovered "Bess" while "covering" a mine accident at Franklin. He found that the company worked its mules until they die; instead of getting more and working them in shifts. It was cheaper.

Mrs. S. C. Griggs, secretary of the Humane society, visited the mine with two officers Friday. She immediately ordered Bess to the barn.

"The mule had worked two weeks without a rest," Mrs. Griggs said.

The Washington State Coal Miners Honor Garden

From Conception to Completion!



Gomer Evans holding clay model of Miner statue at Miner's Day 2012



Photos: Robert Dobson



Above Center - Preparing for the Statue

Above Left, gently lowering the bronze statue on its granite base July 3, 2013



From facebook page, February 2013: "The COAL MINERS' HONOR GARDEN is a terrific tribute to all of the miners who worked so fearlessly in those deep mines. Most got to come home at night, but many didn't make that trip back to their families," said Gomer Evans.

Fire Truck Project



Project Manager Joe Androsko stands next to one of the historical society's projects: the town's 1947 fire truck. (Miners Day 2013)(left)



From the facebook page August 2012: 50 YEARS AGO: "King County Fire Protection District No. 17 held its annual firemen's picnic at Boots Pierotti's picnic area," reported the Enumclaw Herald. The historical society is currently restoring the town's first FIRE TRUCK, a 1947 Ford/Howard-Cooper. This is what the truck looked like when it arrived in January.

The History of Danville By: Bill Kombol (September 2013)

A portion of the area known as Ravensdale was once called Danville. Located on the south side of the Summit-Landsburg Road, Danville lies in the Cedar River valley just below the Landsburg bridge. Nearby Ravensdale was historically located over a small hill in a valley or dale through which the Northern Pacific railroad ran. The Ravensdale zip code and place name now encompasses both Danville and Landsburg.

The original opening by the Danville Coal Company was a water-level portal called the Davis mine, located in Section 24, Township 22 North, Range 6 East. Operations commenced in 1896, and were conducted on a coal seam that geologically stretched south to the towns of Ravensdale and Black Diamond. Five hundred tons of coal was shipped that first year, but work was suspended due to a failure to produce a marketable grade of coal.

The Danville property languished until the mid-1920s when a succession of small operators attempted to revive the area's fortunes. The Success Coal Company began mining in 1924, followed by the Tullock Coal Company, Cash M. Coal Company, a second incarnation of the Danville Coal Company, and the Thermal Coal Company. None were successful and all had closed by 1930. But the area was still considered ripe for development.

In 1932, however, a new company reopened the mines, abandoned the Danville name, and christened itself the Landsburg Coal Company.

Just upstream on the Cedar River was an area known as Landsburg where the City of Seattle withdrew water. Over the next decade the old name of Danville would be slowly supplanted by Landsburg. The Landsburg Mine at Danville was located about 1.5 miles northwest of the historic core of Ravensdale and 500 feet south of the Cedar

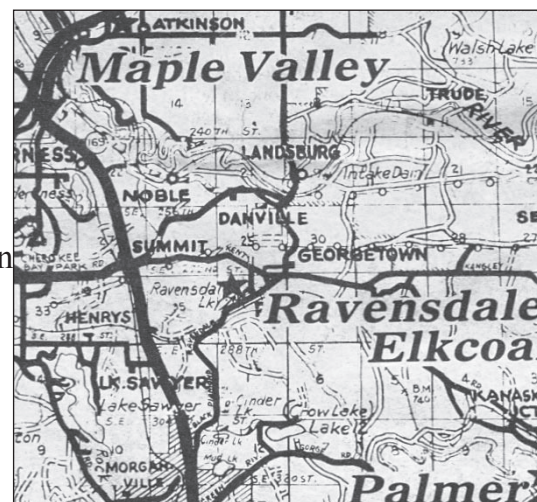


New Danville mine, circa 1950; L-R: George Morris, Louis Fosnick, Stan Huber, Tom Marsden, John Mihelich, Gus Wenzel, Pete Zavotterro, Ben Nichols, and George Thomas. Courtesy of Palmer Coking Coal Co

River. The Landsburg Coal Company lasted only two years before its workings were taken over by Desimond Coal & Coke Company, which increased production to more than 10,000 tons per year with a work force of about 20 miners. Despite new investments, Desimond shuttered the mine in April 1936. The property was next

managed by the Gebo-Drake Coal Company, which produced little coal and failed within a year.

In November 1937, officials of Palmer Coking Coal Company (PCCC) announced plans to reopen the Danville mine and the coal seams finally had an operator worthy of their potential. With major new investments in gangways, tunnels, and bunkers opening up additional reserves, the mine was producing more coal annually than ever before. Through the years of World War II, PCCC



employed between 20 and 30 miners as new operations on nearby seams were advanced. A 1943 state report described mining operations as the chute and pillar method, powered by electric haulage with a Forrester washing jig. Coal was shipped by dump truck and rail.

In 1944 King County undertook construction of a road named the Morris Mine Connection to service new operations. Mining proceeded southerly, and eventually new slopes were driven from the Ravensdale side of the hill on what were now called the Landsburg seams. They were the same historic Danville formation, but with a new name. In 1949, PCCC purchased the surface property from a receiver appointed to clean up the affairs of the old Danville Coal Company.

By the early 1950s coal production had ramped up to more than 40,000 tons per year. PCCC's customers included state institutions, the University of Washington, the Renton Housing Authority, and thousands of homeowners and small businesses who burned stoker coal in furnaces or nut and lump coal in stoves and fireplaces. All was seemingly well until a series of disasters beset the mine. The first came in 1950 when a fire struck the 18-foot bed which stood at a near vertical pitch of 87°. Next in October 1951, a veteran miner with 40 years of experience, and a name that invoked mining, died after falling 100 feet down a chute. His name was John Henry and

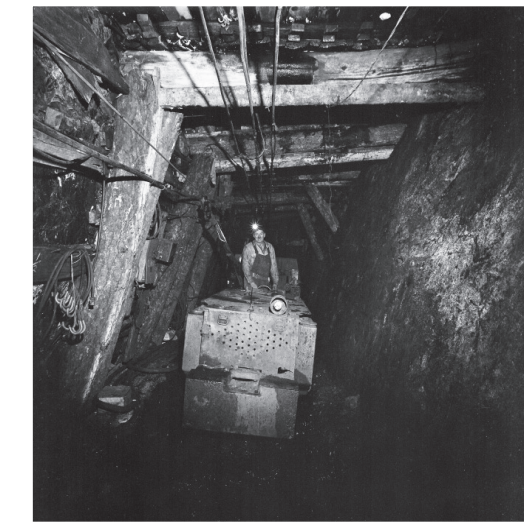


Dave Evans, Dave Manson, and Roy Coutts, Landsburg mine, early 1950s. Courtesy of Palmer Coking Coal Co

he lost his balance while working from a platform at this steeply pitched mine. Another fire erupted on March 16, 1953, and underground walls called "stoppings" had to be assembled to restrict the flow of oxygen to the blaze. That same day, the U. S. Bureau of Mines managed to blow 3.5 tons of evaporating dry ice (carbon dioxide) onto the fire, effectively suffocating the flames.

On January 6, 1954, Harry English and Roy Coutts were working near the No. 25 chute when the floor below them sloughed, causing the two miners to plunge into the void below. Coutts was rescued four hours later, but English remained missing. A crew of miners was assembled and worked for eight grueling days, 24 hours each day to rescue English, but their efforts were futile. The recovery was eventually called off when conditions became too dangerous for the rescue workers. Mr. English's body was never found.

One year later on January 29, 1955, four miners were killed at the steeply-pitched No. 1 bed of the Landsburg mine. Frank Stebly, Louis Vainti, John Kovash, and Nathan Russell died instantly when a sudden and catastrophic cave-in filled the gangway and counter with tons of cascading muddy



Lew McCauley operating electric mule, Rogers No. 3 mine, January 1973, photograph by Larry Abele

water and debris. The cave-in extended to the surface when supersaturated clay and hardpan soils broke through into the workings of this nearly vertical coal seam. The four miners were buried 600 feet deep and their bodies were never recovered. One thousand feet south of that tragic site stands a small grove of trees shading

Danville *Continued pg 11*