



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 Newsletter 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 VICE PRESIDENT Don Malgarini SECRETARY Alison Stern TREASURER Elsie Parkin

DIRECTORS

Howard Botts Gomer Evans, Jr. Dee Israel Steve Israel Don Mason Clayton Mead Susie Thompson David Watson

MEMBERSHIP Allison Stern **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, at, museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org

CONTACT

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

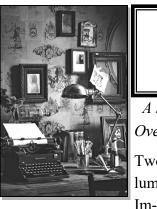
PHONE 360-886-2142 E-MAIL museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org

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)



SOMETHING ABOUT FRANKLIN

A story originally published in the Enumclaw Overland, January 8, 1891.

Two miles beyond Black Diamond, on the Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad, is the Oregon

provement 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

A MESSAGE from the **EDITOR**



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 re-

duced, 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 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

LEIH **MULVIHILL**

Coast. Franklin is the terminus of the Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad. It terminates at a point only about three miles distant from the Cascade Line

of the Northern Pacific at Palmer.

Enjov the tour!

Thank you for all the memories my Mom, Lennie (Sternig) Witt enjoyed in the Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter. Sandra Oviedo PAGE 2



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: WINTER 2017

dream project was started outside the museum by Gomer Evans which involved engineering work in eliminating the wood in the boardwalk and replacing it with lookalike cement boardwalk that matches the rest of the sidewalks on Railroad Avenue.

This was a very large job and lot of volunteer work by Gomer and his friends who allowed the design of the boardwalk to bend down to the street behind the museum. The stairs to the Locomotive and both ends of the caboose were built by Brian Mead; in my opinion it shows his talent very well as a carpenter.

e can't thank Brian and Gomer and his friends enough for an outstanding job and a great addition to the museum and the city.

G omer Evans took a hold of the Boardwalk Project and made it happen. Only in Black Diamond could you find such a man. Thanks Gomer!

e have a new display named the "Parlor" which looks like it came out of the 1920's and 1930's and shows items from the early days of Black Diamond. It looks wonderful and has the fine touches of the volunteer committee chaired by Dee Israel.

This is an ongoing desire to improve the interior of the museum and this means better lighting. A grant from 4Culture has allowed us to replace energy consuming light fixtures with energy efficient LED fixtures. More light with less expense and less climbing to replace florescent tubes increasing the volunteer's safety. Steve Israel has replaced the fixtures in the Parlor and we thank him a lot.

S o as we look into the future we have two events that usually bring hundreds of people to the museum where we have a safety meeting concerning the possible coal mine shafts that might be hidden at the town site of Franklin. After that meeting we caravan to Franklin and are greeted by Don Mason the Mayor of Franklin.

D on has been leading the tours at Franklin for over forty years and he gets better each time he does this. He along with other volunteers will show the attendees very large photos of what Franklin looked like and as they climb up the hill comparing the photos to what it looks like now.

The tours start at noon on Saturday Feb. 4th and Saturday March 4th. The tour ends at the shaft of a coal mine that is vertical going down over 1300 feet which is below sea level and of course is full of water to a level that when you drop a rock down the shaft you have to wait a while before you hear the splash.

Ur area is full of historical objects and stories of the past where Coal was King. We have dedicated volunteers who care about our city and its history and roll up their sleeves and work at preserving our past. If you want a job we are always looking for greeters who smile and say hello to the many visitors who come to the museum

from all over the States and world. Give me a call and join our group of volunteers who are making a difference. Keith Watson 360-886 -0778

A MESSAGE from the PRESDIENT



KEITH WATSON

Keith Watson, BDHS President





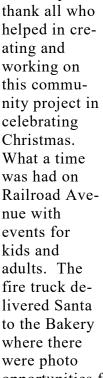
STATE BLACK DIGHT

HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS A SUCCESS!

BY KEITH WATSON

e have been very busy this last couple of months with the Home Town Christmas at the top of our list. We want to

Art Alliance. Outside the Antique Store there were hay rides available for families and kids provided by Gomer Evans and





Carolers roamed the street through the day singing Christmas Carols. Photo by Bob Dobson

opportunities for anybody who wanted to give Santa a list of items they wanted for Christmas.

oe Androsko drove Santa with siren going and decoration Christmas lights a glowing. Santa and Mrs. Clause (Dennis and Kooky Helland) were a hoot and we thank them as they did a fantastic job. The Bakery provided over a hundred cookies which gave kids a chance to decorate them and take them home. Thanks to Moon at the Bakery for providing the space and the cookies. The Eagles offered a space where the kids could build and decorate wreaths and have an opportunity to learn how to paint pictures by the folks from the Black Diamond

Driver Ben Ginridge. There were also various flavors of caramel corn for the asking.

t the museum an additional Santa and Mrs. Clause (Tom and Leih Mulvilhill) were greeting visitors with fun and laughter they did a wonderful

job. King County Libraries story tellers entertained kids with Christmas stories. Steve Israel and Fran Wold entertained



Fran Wold & Steve Israel perform in the Museum. Photo by Bob Dobson

with live Christmas music. To make things complete cookies, treats, hot chocolate and coffee were available at the museum and Antique Store. The Deli, across the street from the museum, was open during the event with available food dishes that they are famous for serving. Fun was had by all of the attendees. **T**rior to the Home Town L Christmas Event there was a garage sale to raise funds for the event with much planning and many meetings. Our Home Town Christmas Chair this year was Leih Mulvihill and she was tutored by Judy Watson who chaired the last Home Town Christmas Events. Lots of preparation was needed in putting up posters and A frames designed by Mira Hoke; another great job!

Decorating the Avenue was accomplished by many who put up a giant Christmas Tree, 20 feet tall, and three 8 foot lighted Christmas Trees across the street from the Smoked Meat Store. Foleys of Maple Valley donated the three

> trees from their Christmas Tree lot along with a whole lot of Greenery that was used on the fence, along with lights, that went from the Antique Store to the Smoked Meat Store.

HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS CONT.



Santa was delivered to the Bakery by Elf Joe in the Antique Fire truck.

HOMETOWN

Cont. from page 4

The Museum and caboose were outlined with lights.

he street lamp poles were wrapped with lighted decorations provided and installed by the Deady family. We had wonderful volunteers who worked very hard alongside a group of youths from the Generational Hope Church who all worked their hearts out. The entire street looked great and in the spirit of Christmas. Love all of you for your dedication and the spirit of celebrating Christ's



Photo by Bob Dobson

birth.

DEPOT M

rior to the Home Town L Christmas event the decorated Fire Truck, driven by Joe Androsko, delivered Santa to the **Black Diamond Community** Center where the kids could sit on Santa's lap and have their picture taken by Mr. Olness. Santa and Mrs. Clause were Leih and Tom Mulvihill.

Photos by Bob Dobson



100 YEARS AGO CHAPTER 8 (A FICTIONAL ACCOUNT BASED ON HISTORICAL FACTS)

ike Miller here in Black Diamond in the year 1917. As you might remember the East side of Railroad Avenue across the street from the train depot was destroyed by an out of control fire. Many businesses were destroyed including the Black Diamond Hotel, where I had a room, other businesses were the Undertaking Company, the Meat Market, and another hotel.

The Pacific Coast Company decided to build a 67 room Hotel named the "Pacific Coast Hotel" on the land where those businesses had been located. {note: this is the land where the Eagles building is now located} Hotels in Black Diamond are primarily for single men or men who would bring their families to the new country when they could afford the cost of relocating.

here are many hotels in L town of various sizes and they are really boarding houses where meals are served, baths provided and clothes can be laundered and mended for a fee. Most of the rooms are small but adequate. The big two story Ushaped Pacific Coast Hotel has a very large dining room and space for visiting dignitaries of the Pacific Coast Company which owns the town, the mines, the houses, and the Railroad. It was decided to use one of the rooms as a Library. An effort was made to fill it with books that were begged, barrowed, and contributed from the towns people. I visited the Li-PAGE 6

brary and found some interesting reading.*

B lack Diamond in 1917 has a population of around 4000 and the coal mines are very busy and so are the residents. Some of the things that are very popular are reading, soccer games, baseball games, school presentations, special events at the show hall, taking care of gardens, going to church and the events at the churches.

There are two churches in town; the Catholic Church Saint Barbara's and the Presbyterian Church. If you like to sing or play an instrument you can do that at the churches or the various lodges that are here. There is a pool hall that is very active and a favorite with the miners where you can play a friendly game of cards.

The company controls the town and offers goods at the company store where you can get on their credit system and pay back on pay day. The prices do seem fair.

s far as my work with the boilers at mine eleven; it is rather boring and I would like to try to get work on the Railroad. It seems that you need to know someone who works on the Railroad to put in a good word for you; but I guess that's true in any hiring situation. I'll keep trying!

Continued in next issue

* {note: Anne Steiert, as a girl, visited the Library many times

with her older sister as a chaperone: their mother insisted that they not visit the library alone because of the many men located in the hotel. Ann was one of the founders of the Black Diamond Historical Society along with her husband Carl in 1976 that is now housed in the old depot. Ann continued to be interested in books and as an adult served on the towns library board. Years later, after 1925, when passenger train service was discontinued the train depot was not needed and the depot became a King County Library on June 22 in the year 1945. Before that in 1943 with many residents were off to World War II; the library shut down because no one was available to operate it. The books were moved the school basement. In August of 1944 a Black Diamond School teacher. Mrs. Cobb, approached the King County Rural Library District about establishing a permanent library in the community. The Library also has been housed in a teacher's cottage across the street from the hospital, in the new Police Department and Court building, in the building that now houses the City Hall and finally in its new facility on Roberts Drive?

BY KEITH WATSON

Dbituaries



MARIE M. FREEMAN December 1931 - October 2016 Member since 1981

arie Madeline (Merlini) Freeman of Black Diamond passed away October 18, 2016 at the age of 84. She was born on December 12, 1931 in Black Diamond to Italian immigrants, Nello and Oliva

(Rossi) Merlini. Her birth, after four sons, was heralded with a week-long celebration.

A s a young woman, Marie worked as a checker for Joe Mezzavilla/Gibbon Store in Maple Valley. In her older years, she worked at Pioneer Food Buying in Seattle. But mostly she was content to be a homemaker. Food and feeding people was a huge part of what made her tick. She kept traditional Italian foods and meals alive for her family and friends. Marie's love of her Italian heritage was manifested in her life-long membership in the Order of Sons of Italy in America, who recently honored her with a 70th anniversary medallion and ceremony. The first ever in her lodge. She was among the first female presidents of her local lodge, Black Diamond #1809, which her parents helped found. Marie was also a state officer of this fraternal organization for many years.

I n her final years, she devoted herself to her beloved Community Center, lodge, and to her family and friends -both human and four pawed. She could also be found snuggling with her dog and cats or a grandchild or two (candy and ice cream involved) while watching old movies and musicals: John Wayne, Mario Lanza, Nelson Eddy, and Jeanette MacDonald, etc.

arie is survived by her three children (with first husband, Ted Palmer), Darrell Palmer of Black Diamond, Livia Ziebarth (Bill) of Lake Forest Park, and Randy Palmer of Washington. She is also survived by eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She was married to Charles Freeman from 1969 until his death in 1997. In lieu of flowers, please send any remembrances to Marie's heart and soul, the Black Diamond Community Center, P.O. Box 480, Black Diamond, WA 98010.



ALBERT F. GUIDETTI September 1935 - October 2016 Member since 2007

Ibert F. Guidetti (Al) passed away on October 19th, 2016 at the age of 81 in Black Diamond, Washington. He is survived by Maureen Guidetti, his high school sweet-

heart and wife of 60 years, his two siblings, Arlene Hendrickson of Black Diamond and Diane Renner of Lake Tapps, and six grown children, Susan Guidetti, Alan Guidetti, Linda Guidetti, Amy Shay, Janet Schaefer and Mary Jane Guidetti Clapshaw and their spouses. He is also survived by 16 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

I worked in fire and timber management for the U.S. Forest Service, for 35 years, spending countless hours at Suntop Lookout near Crystal Mountain, fighting forest fires, building and maintaining trails, including part of the Pacific Crest Trail.

e was also a volunteer firefighter in Black Diamond. He shared his love of the great outdoors with his family, taking them on many hunting, camping, and hiking trips and telling stories to his grandchildren while gathered around the family bonfire. Al was born in 1935 in Seattle, Washington and graduated from White River High School, class of 1953.

MARIE THEILKEN



February 1926 - September 2016 Member since 2003

R oyce (Marie) Theilken, age 90 passed away peacefully in the presence of her daughters and close friends in Yelm, Washington on September 6th, 2016. She is preceded in death by her husband of 49 years Charles E. Theilken, (Bud) a

World War II Veteran, February 25, 1917-February 2, 1992, and her son Charles B Theilken (Buddy), October 24, 1964-August 27, 2007.

Arie was a long time resident of Black Diamond. She was born in New Castle, Washington on February 3rd to Royce and Morris Trover. In 1927 they moved to Black Diamond. Her father and other family members made Black Diamond their home and were a part of the mining and logging history of this area. Bud

Continued on page 10

& Marie were married on

100 Years Ago, Women Sat Silently Outside the White House for 6 Months in Protest

By Meghan Werft Jan. 10, 2017

Brought to you by: CHIME FOR CHANGE



Wikimedia Commons: Library of Congress

n Jan. 10, 1917, long before the days of Mega-Bus or a quick, casual drive to a place where women could collectively voice their opinions, 12 women silently gathered in Lafayette Square in Washington, directly across the street from the White House's north lawn, and sparked a protest that would

later contribute to granting women the right to vote. The women were known as the "silent sentinels." As part of the National Women's Party, they organized the Grand Sentinels Protest — which included the first picket line to ever take place at the White House.

OTHER HAPPENINGS 100 YEARS AGO 1917

January through March

January 1, 1917 the 3rd Rose Bowl: Oregon beats Pennsylvania 14-0

In 1917, Bartell Drugs opens a photo lab at the company headquarters at 1906 Boren Avenue in Seattle. The lab will operate for about 40 years and will become a model for other drugstores looking to install similar labs.

During 1917, Seattle telephone operators organize **Telephone Operators Local** No. 42A. By the following year there are 900 members. It is one of the largest female unions in Seattle.

In January 1917, the Columbia River Interstate Bridge is completed between Vancouver, Washington, and Portland, Oregon. (the east twin of two bridges Interstate 5)

On January 6, 1917, Pierce County residents vote to bond themselves for \$2 million dollars to purchase 70,000 acres of land on the Nisqually Plains at American Lake. The land will then be turned over to the federal government free of charge for development into a military post. Cont. on next page

DONATIONS

We wish to thank the following for their generous donations during the 4th qtr 2016 to the Black CULTURE **Diamond Historical Society.**

MEMORIAL DONATIONS In Memory Of:

Albert Guidetti by Roylene Baker, Joyce Dal Santo, James & Wendv Brazeau, Howard & Ruth Clark and Palmer Coking Coal Co LLP

Marie Thielken by Janice Ranton

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS MADE BY: Donna Bortko Thomas & Joyce Erath

DONATIONS ARE ALSO WELCOME FOR: ARCHIVE PRESERVATION FUND HONORARIAM

FIRE TRUCK RESTORATION **FRANKLIN FUND MINER'S DAY** WELSH HERITGE DAY FUND: **NEWSLETTER FUND** SPECIAL PROJECTS **HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS FUND**



Thank you, City of Black **Diamond** for the **Operations support!**

KING COUNTY LODGING TAX

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.

Cont. from previous page

The facility will first be called Camp Lewis (and later Fort Lewis, which will merge with McChord Air Force Base to become Joint Base Lewis-McChord).

January 20, 1917, One firefighter is killed and nine are injured in a fire that destroys Seattle's Grand Theatre

On February 22, 1917, the Washington State Senate passes a first-aid measure that includes a progressive compensation package for those hurt on the job. Mark Reed (1866-1933), timber baron and one of the largest employers in the state at the time, sponsors the bill, which relieves workers of their own insurance costs.

On March 5, 1917, the Lumber Workers Industrial Union, IWW, holds its founding convention in Spokane. The union, which includes both loggers and sawmill workers, is a unit within the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)

would become a prominent comedic figure, Stan Laurel (1890-1965) plays a four-day vaudeville engagement at Seattle's Palace Hip (short for Palace Hippodrome) Theatre.

On March 26, 1917, the Seattle Metropolitans win the Stanley Cup and become the world champions of hockey. In Seattle, at The Arena, the Mets, coached by Pete Muldoon, defeat defending champion Montreal Les Canadians Habitants three games to one.

Continued in next issue



Maytag clothes washer 1917

Welcome New & Returning Members

By Allison Stern, Membership Chairman

The Black Diamond Historical Society now has 309 memberships. We are pleased to announce that during the third quarter of 2016 we have acquired the following new memberships:

Barb Shane

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

Jim & Cathy Bradley

Mary M. Kennedy Ted & Leona Myers Lloyd & carol Qually Eric & Doris Watson Beverly P. Read Deryl & Dorothy Sleigh Nadine & Richard Vanhorn Harry & Sharon Kreul Judy Thompson Patricia Coogan Richard & Tonia Hansen Lynne Bonnell Eileen Wyke Kay Traverso Dennis & Deborah Stebley Bonnie Bingham Carl Falk Beth Deady Troy Deady Thomas & Joyce Erath Elaine Slizus Palmer Coking Coal Co LLP CCD Black Diamond Partners LLC (Oakpointe)

MARIE THEILKEN Continued from Page 7

May 3rd, 1943 just before he was shipped out to war. After the war they made Black Diamond their home. She is survived by her sister Laura Shipley and (Ship) of Richmond, Virginia, Three daughters, Susan Askey and (Kenneth) of Salem, Oregon, Donna Theilken of Tacoma, Annette Steward and (Michael) of Yelm, & grandchildren and 12 Great-grandchildren. Marie was a 50 year member of Pythian Sisters here in Black Diamond and a member of the BDHS since 2003.

CAROL FRANKLIN

January 22, 1945 - October 14, 2016

Carol Franklin, lifetime member of the Black Diamond Historical Society, passed away on October 14, 2016 after a multi-year battle with Alzheimer's. Carol was born in Enumclaw in 1945 to Ann and Carl Steiert of Black Diamond, and married James Franklin in 1972 in Black Diamond. She had one daughter, Amy, who resides in Seattle, as well as two granddaughters, Ellie and Penny. She also has one brother, Jerry, who resides in Kirkland.

fter graduating from Enumclaw High School, Carol attended Seattle University, graduating in 1967 with a BA in Education. She taught for 8 years at South Mercer Junior High on Mercer Island, then temporarily retired to start a family. In approximately 1994, she returned to Seattle University, and earned her Master's Degree three years later while teaching at Green River Community College. She served for many years as the Chairman of Adult Basic Education at Green River, an area that was a particular pas-

sion of hers. With her help, many young, and not so young, people achieved education levels that they thought were beyond their reach. Carol retired in 2008 to spend more time with her granddaughters. She passed away while a resident at Aegis Living in Kent, where she had resided since January 2016.

LENNIE STERNIG WITT Unknown - October 14, 2016

Lennie (Sternig) Witt passed away on October 3, 2016 at the age of 103. Lennie was born in Black Diamond in 1913 to Philip and Mary Sternig. Her father was a coalminer. Both of her parents came from Austria at the beginning of the 20th century. She was the youngest of five Sternig brothers and sisters; Marie (Sternig) Birmingham, Valentine (Teenie) Sternig (who lived his entire life in Black Diamond), Gerry (Sternig) Newlam and Philip Sternig.

Lennie married Sam Witt, a Superintendent of the Kaiser Gypsum Plant in Long Beach, California and then he helped start up the Kaiser Gypsum Plant in Seattle for two years. He then was transferred back to the Long Beach plant, where he remained for over 30 years. Sandra (Witt) Oviedo was there only child. She grew up traveling back and forth to Black Diamond to see her mom's relative and friends. Sandra also grew up hearing all her stories of her wonderful life in Black Diamond, swimming in Lake Sawyer and dancing all the time. Sandra felt like she knew the people her mom went to school with.

| | rship and Renewal Forn due August 1st each y | |
|---|---|---|
| | BDHS Mem | bership Fees |
| Date Name(s) Address CityStZip E-mail | Annual Business Lifetime Individual Lifetime Family Newsletter Fund Donatio Other Donation Total Enclosed | |
| Day Phone Eve Phone Date of Birth (Optional) If this is a gift, who is it from? | New □ Renewal □ Cash □ Check □ | Make Check Payable to: BDHS Mail to: Black Diamond Historical Society PO Box 232 lack Diamond, WA 98010 |
| | BDHS is a 501(c)(3) Non Profi | it Organization (TIN 51-0170304) |
| | | 1.994 |
| Rol | Posted by:Da | on, Memorial, etc.) ate: (rev. 08/01/14) |
| (Museum Use Only) Referred by: Date: 676 <i>Number of guests</i> <i>visiting the</i> <i>museum during</i> Date: | Posted by: Dz Our Guest | ate: (rev. 08/01/14) da, North Carolina, re were also people visit- |
| (Museum Use Only) Referred by: Date: 676 <i>Number of guests</i> <i>visiting the</i> <i>museum during</i> <i>Ard Quarter of</i> Date: | Posted by: Da D | ate: (rev. 08/01/14) da, North Carolina, re were also people visit- |



Black Diamond Historical Society PO BOX 232 * Black Diamond, WA 98010-0232

Address Service Requested



Do you like Black Diamond history?

Come join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter, and our blog! www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory www.twitter.com/BD_History www.blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com And make sure to tell your friends, too.

BLACK DIAMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY/ MUSEUM CALENDAR 2017

February 4th, Sat 12pm Tour of Franklin March 4th, Sat 12pm Tour of Franklin April 23, Sun 1pm-3pm General Membership Meeting May 31, Wed 11am-2pm School Reunion at BD Community Center June 3, Sat 12pm-4pm Welsh Founders Day at Museum July 8, Sat 9am-rpm Miners Day July 28-29, 10-4 Christmas in July Museum Sept 2-4, Labor Day Events Historical Dist. October 29, Sun 1-3pm General Membership Meeting Dec 9, Sat 10-3 Home Town Christmas Museum Dec 16, Sat through Jan 4th Wed Museum Closed Jan 5, Thurs 9am-4pm Museum Re-Opens



Contraction of the second

U.S. POSTAGE

NONPROFIT ORG

BLACK DIAMOND, Washington PERMIT No. 17

Thanks for the support of 4Culture and the City