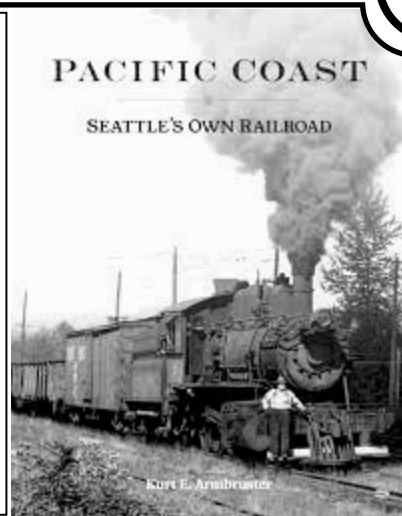




**DON'T MISS
AUTHOR KURT
ARMBRUSTER
COMING TO
BLACK
DIAMOND
APRIL 28TH**



◆ NEWSLETTER ◆

**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:**

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**“Pacific Coast - Seattle’s Own Railroad”
By Kurt Armbruster**

Early in 1870, citizens of Seattle, the leading port on Puget Sound, had high hopes that the Northern Pacific Railroad would make the city its western terminus. In July of 1872, the Northern Pacific chose a virtually undeveloped site on Commencement Bay called Tacoma.

In Seattle, panic gave way to resolution as the citizens rolled up their sleeves and spent May Day 1874 building their railroad. Exhausted city leaders took two years to enlist San Francisco capital to build the narrow gauge line that would bring coal to the city, to steamships and to San Francisco. That coal trade helped build the Pacific Northwest's greatest city.

The Pacific Coast was independently owned and operated until 1951, when the Great Northern bought it and operated it until the BN merger of 1970.

Over 160 photographs, maps, extensive archival documentation, and employee interviews make this the definitive account of one of the West Coast's most significant railroads.

Kurt Armbruster is a Seattle native, historian, author and musician/songwriter. He has written numerous articles for historical journals and books including *Orphan Road*, *The Railroad Comes to Seattle, 1853-1911*, *Before Seattle Rocked*, *A City and Its Music*, and *Playing for Change*, *Burton and Florence James and the Struggle for American Theater*."



NEWSLETTER

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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David Watson

MEMBERSHIP Dee Israel
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
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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)

NEW SECURITY NEEDED!



WE NEED HELP



We need help funding a replacement for our closed-circuit security system which is over ten years old and is failing. This system has helped us take care of our historical collections. Please consider donating some funds to help us purchase a replacement system.

Black Diamond Historical Society/Museum

PO Box 232

Black Diamond, WA 98010



FH289 - The bridge over the Green River which accessed the Franklin No. 10. This photo was taken on March 27, 1971 shortly before the mine and bridge were blasted with explosives before a crowd of coal miners, PCC officials, State Parks representatives, and the press.

Ref - Frank Gren Story page 7

Share your historic family photos

And a short story behind it.

Email a PDF or jpeg to leih023@gmail.com

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: SPRING 2019

Black Diamond has had a large share of snow this year and we were forced to close the museum for several days for reasons of safety for the staff and attendees.

A MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT



KEITH
WATSON

We very seldom close the museum and welcome all comers rain or shine but snow and ice are another thing. We finally have our new flag pole; some of you may remember that the driver of a SUV fell asleep and crashed into it totaling the SUV along with the pole and two memorial granite benches. The new pole is 40 feet high silver aluminum with the raising and lowering lines inside the pole. It really looks outstanding; the bench replacements are still a work in progress.

Work inside the museum has been ongoing with the floors repainted by volunteers who did a great job. We have a whole new look in the office and kitchen area with a new archival work room funded by one of our past board members Jackie Cedarholm.

Our archivist Dave Watson has new equipment for scanning photos and documents which he is saving in a digital format. He also has map cases in the room for quick references and safe storage. We would like to have a large

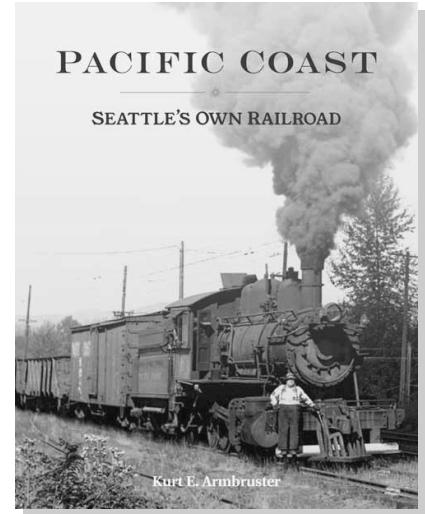
scanner that we could use on the maps.

Recently we have had Howard Botts add to our collection a map of Black Diamond in 1939 and a Washington Geological Survey book from 1912 with a report entitled "The Coal Fields of King County". The book contains photos of some of the mines that were being worked in 1912. Thank you, Howard for the donations.

Presently we are working on a military remembrance display featuring new manikins dressed in military uniforms. With photos, documents, models and associated material we hope to use in remembrance of those who served our nation.

From 4Culture of King County, the Historical Society received some new books about the railroads that served Black Diamond and King County. It's titled "**Pacific Coast - Seattle's Own Railroad**" and features a gallery of many photos, maps, and documents starting with the Seattle Coal & Transportation Company; the Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad, the Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad, and the Pacific Coast Railroad.

It gives an insight of how the Chicago Milwaukee & St Paul Railroad and the Great Northern Railway were connected to the local railroad. It shows time tables and a listing of the: Narrow Gauge Steam Locomotives, the Standard Gauge Steam Locomotives, Passenger Cars, Coal (Hopper) Cars, Wood Rack Cars, Flat Cars, Ca-



booses, and misc. Equipment.

The author *Kurt E. Armbruster*, will have a book signing opportunity here at the museum on Sunday **April 28, 2019 from 1pm to 3pm** along with his presentation.

We thank Kurt, 4Culture of King County as well as the Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive for this important book. We are asking a \$20 donation for each book and can mail it to you for a total donation of \$25. This is a very good read!

If you want to know more about the railroad that served Black Diamond go to our website at black-diamondmuseum.org and the Blog by Ken Jensen at www.blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com and also check out the links listed on both spaces.

The Black Diamond School Reunion is scheduled for Wed. June 5th from 11am – 3pm; Welsh Founders Day is scheduled for Sat. June 1st from 1pm – 3pm; Miners Day and 5K race/walk is scheduled on Sat. July 13th from 9 am – 4pm. We are looking for friends of the museum that are

Continued on next page

Presidents Message

Cont. from previous page

willing to be greeters 3 hours a month on either Saturdays or Sundays. All you need to bring is a friendly smile, 360-886-0778.

We hope you have a wonderful Spring and Summer.

*Keith Watson,
President*



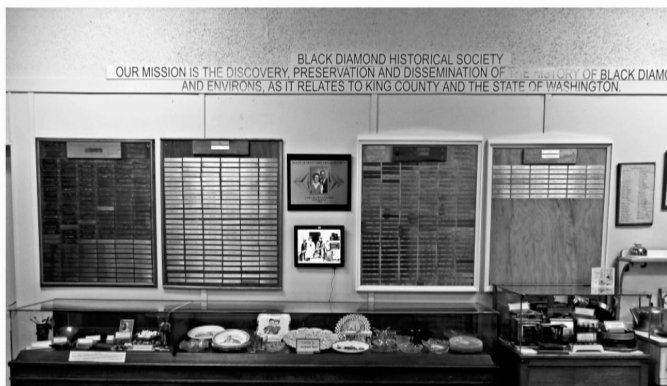
BDHS DESIGN & UPGRADE SERIES #4

BY DEE ISRAEL. DESIGN TEAM COORDINATOR & BOB DOBSON PHOTOGRAPHER

INTERIOR MEMORIAL WALL

The 4 Memorial Boards have been moved from the auditorium to the kitchen.

A digital picture frame was added between them, along with a picture plaque of our founders, Carl and



Ann Steiert and an article about them. In the right end of the display case below the boards, are heirlooms made by Ann and donated to the museum.



On the left end of the display case and on the wall on the other side of the door, we are honoring Mrs. Alice Davies and her Confectionary.

Our 3rd Memorial is for Jacqueline Cedarholm. Jackie lived in Seattle and drove to Black Diamond every Thursday for 10 years to volunteer here at the museum. She worked with, and was a great help for the Archivist, JoAnne Matsumura and she was well appreciated on the Black Diamond Historical Society Board. Jackie was very interested in Black Diamond because her mother was raised here and her grandfather was one of the mine workers here. The small room in the museum, next to the office has been converted to the archivist's work room so it felt only right that it should be called "Jackie Cedarholm Archive Workroom".

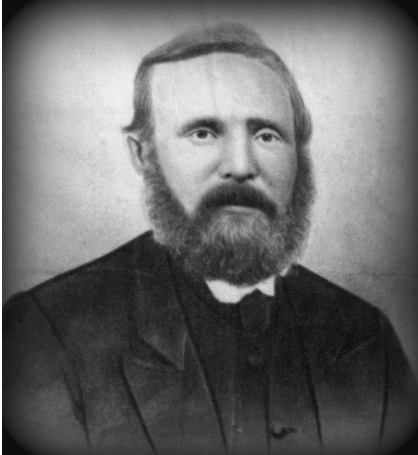


We are anxious for you to come to the BDHS Museum soon, for a visit and to view (in person) these new displays that are being done by the Design Team and several museum volunteers.



INTRODUCING...

Rees T. Reese Dies in Mine 11 Explosion: Welshman Held in High Esteem



The photograph of Rees T. Reese was loaned to the society by his granddaughter, Rachael Frederickson Fagnan, now deceased.

(April 26, 2014 by Black Diamond History Originally published in the Black Diamond Bulletin, Summer 2011 By JoAnne Matsumura)

It was Friday, April 26, 1907, at 6:50 a.m., when an explosion occurred at the sixth level at the Morgan Slope of Mine 11. The explosion took the lives of seven miners—one of them **Rees Reese**. Reese was the son of **Thomas** and **Mary Reese**, who resided near Castell Craig Y Nos Braconshire, South Wales. He came to America in April 1884 at about the age of 25. He soon married **Rachel Walters**, the daughter of William and Ann Walters of Hirwaun, Aberdare, South Wales, on December 6, 1885, in Cleveland, Iowa. The two settled there and began their family.

Reese, along with his wife and 2-year-old daughter, **Mary Ann**, relocated to Franklin, W.T., in 1888. Entertainment options in the early days were sparse. The Welsh, however, are well known for their singing, poetry, and storytelling. He began singing for choirs, gatherings, and parties, and was soon included in the Franklin choir. His ability to recite poetic verse in the Cambrian tongue was another one of his many talents.

In the 1890 Welsh *Eisteddfod*, held in Seattle on Christmas Day, Reese sang as tenor for the winning Franklin choir. The choir, conducted by **William Richards**, performed for a large gathering of Welsh society.

Another child, **Beatrice**, was born January 1889. A son, **Thomas**, was born in 1891. Brothers **William** and **Arthur** would later join the family. By 1900 the family was living in Black Diamond on 2nd Avenue, where Reese was working in Mine 11 at the Morgan Slope.

Then the Mine 11 whistle blew on an early Friday morning, April 26, 1907, signaling an accident in the mine....

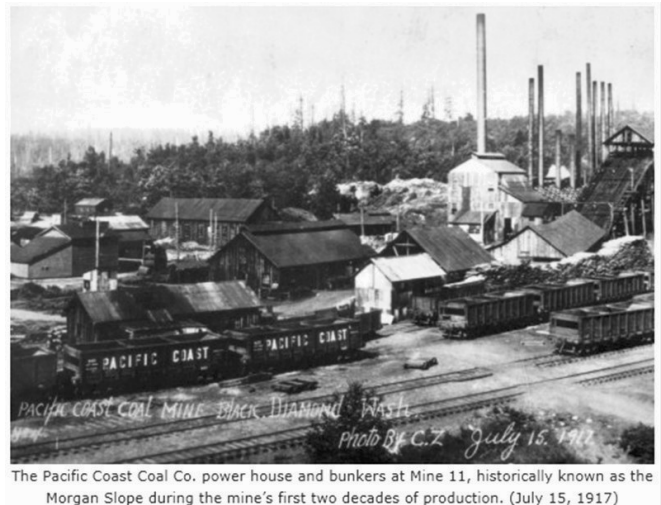
The explosion at the sixth level was later classified as an “unavoidable accident,” as no gas had been reported prior to the time of the accident. Several men had left the area without reporting a cave from

compressed air during their shift. The cave liberated a small body of gas. Reese, **Mitchell**, and **Troyo** entered the level with their open lights, causing the gas to ignite.

Reese was found alive, but died 16 hours later from severe burns. Seven men died and six more men were seriously injured. From this point on, “all employees of this mine are forbidden to use open lights,” announced State Mine Inspector **D.C. Botting**, but the damage was done. A proposed death benefit modeled after the 1902 Lawson Mine disaster provided widows with \$600 with an additional \$400 for each child.

A prayer meeting attended by neighbors and friends was held at the Reese home, conducted both in English and Welsh. Reese was 48. A proposed death benefit modeled after the 1902 Lawson Mine disaster provided widows with \$600 with an additional \$400 for each child.

On April 28, church services were once again *Continued on next page*



The Pacific Coast Coal Co. power house and bunkers at Mine 11, historically known as the Morgan Slope during the mine's first two decades of production. (July 15, 1917)

Continued from previous page

conducted in English and Welsh. **Rev. Bushell** preached from the text, "Watch ye therefore," while **W. Prossor** spoke from *Psalms 102:24*. Songs were sung in Welsh and in English under the leadership of **Evan W. Davis**.

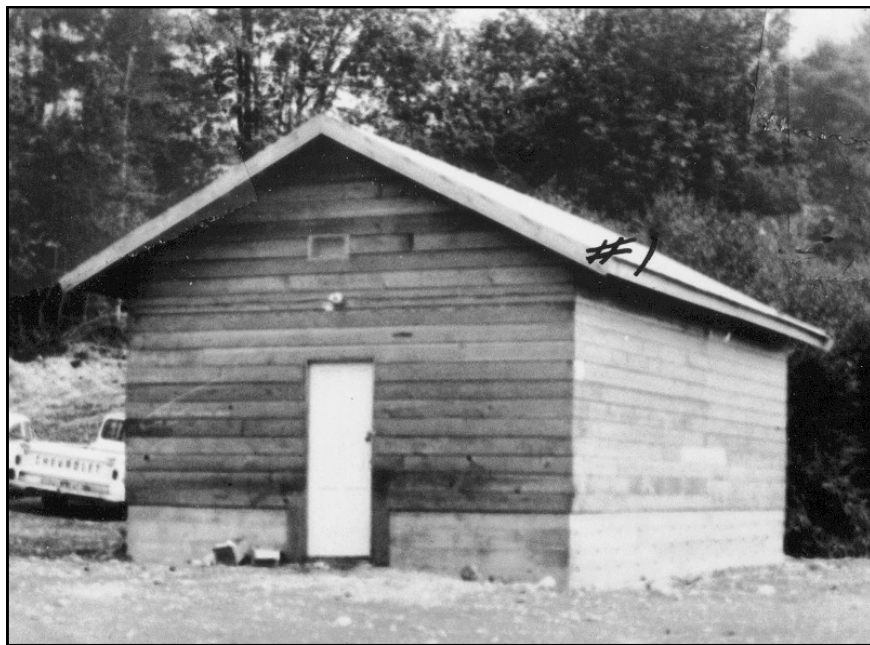
The Welsh of Seattle, Renton, Ravensdale, and elsewhere attended in great numbers. It was the largest

funeral ever witnessed in Black Diamond. The procession extended about half a mile from town to the Black Diamond Cemetery.



*Interior of coal mine, Black Diamond, ca. 1900
HistoryLink.org Essay 2288
Courtesy Ruth Ayes Hofto*

People who wish to donate artifacts need to make an appointment with Dave Watson to look at the items.
253 857 7048
swatsondc@gmail.com
Please come on a Thursday after making an appointment with Dave to examine the



Frank Grens' home was very similar to this miner's wash house at Palmer's Rogers No. 3 mine in Ravensdale.
Photo # Pcc098



A big **Thank you** goes out to Bill Kombol for contributing awesome articles for the Newsletter!



FRANK GRENS

THE HERMIT ABOVE THE GORGE

BY WILLIAM KOMBOL

Of all the colorful characters who populated the coal mining towns of King County, perhaps none was more colorful than Frank Grens. He was the subject of a number of newspaper articles in the late 1970s and early 1980s where he gained notoriety as Franklin's last resident. There he

lived in an old washhouse where coal miners once showed following 8-hour shifts underground. In this bucolic setting on a tree-lined hillside that sloped down to the Green River Gorge, Frank passed his hours fishing, hunting, walking in the woods, and tending his small garden.

He was born in the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania on August 26, 1911; then followed his father to the soft-coal pits of Illinois. From there he journeyed to Black Diamond at age 17 to join his brother. Once here he began construction work on the Kummer Bridge, then labored as a lumberjack and clay miner. He drove mules at Bill Hann's Old Lawson mine during the mid-1930s. On December 6, 1941, the day before Pearl Harbor, a roof beam in a mine tunnel fell resulting in a back injury he suffered the rest of his life. He continued to work through the war years but eventually gave up coal mining.

In the 1960s, Frank became a trusted watchman for Palmer Coking Coal Company who operated the No. 10 mine. That mine closed in March 1971 with a celebrated explosion of the suspended bridge which accessed the portal on the east side of the river. State official witnessed the event amidst plans for the property to become a central part of the Green River Gorge Conservation Area. A special provision was placed in the 1973 sales agreements where Washington State Parks allowed Grens to occupy the 20-by-28 foot windowless shack for as long as he lived.

For Frank Grens, living the life of a hermit was something of a necessity. He told reporters that he couldn't live in a city, "... not in that rat race. Where can a man sit down there? In a tavern? I don't drink," Frank defiantly exclaimed. Grens decorated his home with bric-a-brac such as deer antlers and old mining paraphernalia he'd salvaged. Around 1980, Frank suffered a stroke that severely impaired his speech, but not his smile. With hand gestures

and a stream of god-damns, curses, and stuttered syllables, Frank communicated as best he could.

On Thanksgiving Day, 1983, Frank died of a heart attack at age 72. This photo was taken two months earlier by Mark Morris with Nathalie Overland of the Valley Newspapers. They were some of the 200 photographers who snapped photographs on September 23, 1983 during a 24-hour period for a project dubbed "Washington Dayshoot," later showcased at the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI).

This image comes courtesy of Patti Chapman-Courtright whose father, Bill Chapman was a long time coal mine electrician for Palmer. Patti, who lives in Moclips retains fond memories of Frank and his 'live-off-the-land' lifestyle in that old shack above Green River Gorge. On the back of the photo she wrote down her memories of Frank.

"Frank was one of my favorite people. I used to go out and visit him quite often. Usually I went with Dad (Bill Chapman), and Matt (Patti's son) accompanied us several times. Frank lived in the old coal miner's showering room, at the old coal mining spot by Green River Gorge. The shower room had no windows, and the floor sloped (so when the miners showered, the water would run down). He used a propane stove and had Playboy pin-ups lining the walls. Not far from his 'house,' he built a lean-to right at the top of the gorge, so he could fish without getting wet. He wanted to teach me how to steelhead fish, but with two little ones, I unfortunately never got the chance.

"He was a pro at putting up fish eggs. Whenever Dad got some from the Quinault Indians, he would give them to Frank to "put up." One time Jim (Courtright) and I took them out to him. He immediately started "putting them up." Good fish eggs were better than gold to Frank and to most of the fisherman who had these eggs. I felt quite honored that he let me help him. I would always take him cookies, etc. He would always make sure I went home with relish and jams.

"Frank had a stroke before this picture was taken. It left him speechless expect for profanity. We would go out to visit and he'd want to talk so bad. Suddenly a long line of cuss words would come rolling out - it was pretty funny!

"Frank would "hitch" a train and make a trip completely around the mountain and Olympic peninsula without spending a dime. He would fish and hunt for food the entire way."





BART MCNUTLY

THE BLACK DIAMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

BART MCNUTLY'S "HIDDEN TREASURES OF THE PAST"

Bart McNutly hid several items in the museum as he passed through town. During Miners Day in July, Bart comes into town for the festivities and hides priceless and historical treasures he took from unsuspecting people. He hides these in the museum and the museum needs your help finding them.



Please find us, we're lost and don't know where we are!!

Obituaries



Donald Howard (Doc) Botts
August 18, 1923 - January 7, 2019.

He was born to the late Alton and Maude Botts at the Black Diamond Hospital on Lawson Street. He graduated from Black Diamond

High School in 1941. He was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Navy from January 1943 until April 1946; he was aboard the escort carrier USS Siboney-CVE 112 in Torpedo Squadron 24 as an aviation machinist mate. Following military service, he spent 30 years working as a machinist for Stetson-Ross Machine Co. in Seattle.

He is survived by sister Beth Van Buskirk of Auburn. He was preceded in death by siblings Ellemæ Jamison (Charles), Paul Botts (Gertie), Ardis Lessard (Emery) and Muriel (Ed Laine and Joe Waldo).

A memorial is planned for 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Black Diamond Eagles. Guests are invited to attend with stories and pictures to share.

Donations in his memory are suggested to the Black Diamond Museum, P.O. Box 232, Black Diamond, 98010.



Kenneth W. Unick
May 18, 1937 - June 30, 2017

"Ken, husband, Dad, Papa, Pop, Papa Huna, Mr. U" passed away peacefully at home, June 30, 2017 with his loving family at his side. He was 80 years young and very proud of his wonderful family; wife of 62 years, Carol; four daughters Jev Rene',

Kerin Joan, Kena Marie and Darla Ann; sons-in-law Warren Parker, Jon Sullivan and Adam Sagos; granddaughters Brena Jene' husband Aaron Stewart, Kelsey Leigh Ann husband Matt Taylor, Jordan Lee husband John Cowling, Sierra Michelle & Maya Cassidy; great grandchildren Brogan Rae, Ryan Allen, Hudson Jon, Nolan Timothy, River James & Ronin Lee.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents, Carl & Bee Unick, and his brother Phil Unick, who passed away two days prior to Ken.

A celebration of life for Phil and Ken will be held at a later date.

Contact family for details.

Remembrances may be made for Ken to Northshore fire Dept. #16, 7220 NE 181st St., Kenmore, WA 98028 and for Phil to Children's Hospital, 4800 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA (please write donation on the memo line of checks)

We miss and love very much our two special men...

God bless them. ◆



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019
1 PM - 3PM

WELCOME NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

BY LAURIE EVANS, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN 1ST QTR 2019

The Black Diamond Historical Society now has 270 memberships.

We are pleased to announce that during the first quarter of 2019 we have acquired the following memberships:

Renewed Memberships:

Julianne McNeely
The Smokehouse & More

New Memberships:

Cliff Johnson
Laurie Evans
Ron & Bev Heusser
Rebecca Spearman



DONATIONS

We wish to thank the following for their generous donations during the 1st quarter of 2019 to the Black Diamond Historical Society.



CULTURE

KING COUNTY LODGING TAX

MEMORIAL DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF:

Donald Botts - Julia Young
Departed Dal Santo family members - Julianne McNeely

Donald Botts - Palmer Coking Coal Co.
- D & J Malgarini Trust
- David & Janet McCrindle
- Robert & Jodine Burke
- Joseph & Evelyn Dal Santo
- Dee Israel

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS MADE BY:

M. L. Shukis
Jerry English

DONATIONS ARE ALSO WELCOME FOR -
NEWSLETTER FUND
ARCHIVE PRESERVATION FUND
FIRE TRUCK RESTORATION
FRANKLIN FUND

HONORARIAM
MINER'S DAY
SPECIAL PROJECTS
WELSH HERITGE DAY FUND
HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS FUND



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.



Membership and Renewal Form (Renewals due August 1st each year)



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? _____

BDHS Membership Fees

Annual Individual	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual Family	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual Business	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lifetime Individual	\$200.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lifetime Family	\$300.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletter Fund Donation	\$ _____	
Other Donation	\$ _____	
Total Enclosed	\$ _____	

Make Check Payable to:

BDHS

Mail to:

**Black Diamond
Historical Society**

PO Box 232

Black Diamond, WA 98010

New

Renewal

Cash

Check

Ck # _____

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. 08/01/14)

454

*Number of guests
visiting the
museum during the
First quarter of*

2019

Be Our Guest

by Laurie Evans

There were visitors from five States: Arizona, California, Florida, Missouri, and many cities in Washington.

Comments

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

Nice local spot.

Keep the history alive!

Awesome! Loved the music.

Amazing. Thank you! Wonderful docents and volunteers.

Wonderful to see our local history.

Fun place!

Thank you for an amazing tour.

A museum like no other! Great work.

We love it here. Will bring visitors.

Learned a lot!





NEWSLETTER

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

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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.



2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|--|
| April 6 | Sat. | Tour of ghost town Franklin (<i>meet at museum at 10am</i>) |
| April 28 | Sun. | General Membership Meeting at museum 1-3pm |
| June 1 | Sat. | Welsh Founders Day at museum 1-3pm |
| June 5 | Wed. | Black Diamond School Reunion at Eagles 11-3pm |
| July 13 | Sat. | Miners Day on Railroad Ave.
/5K race at City Gym 9-4pm |
| Sept. 2 | Mon. | Labor Day at museum 9-4pm
(Events - Aug. 31 – Sept. 2) |
| Sept. 14 | Sat. | Funding dinner for Hometown Christmas at Eagles 4-10pm |
| Oct. 27 | Sun. | General Membership Meeting at museum 1-3pm |
| Dec. 7 | Sat. | Hometown Christmas on Railroad Ave. 10-3pm |
| Dec. 19 | Thurs. | Museum closed for Holidays Dec. 19 thru Jan. 3 |
| Jan. 4, 2020 | Sat. | Museum reopens 12-3pm |

*Black Diamond Historical Society Board Meetings on 3rd Thursdays monthly
Thanks for the support of 4Culture and the City of Black Diamond*