

Volume 43, Issue 3

BLACK DIAMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer 2019

◆ Newsletter ◆

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BANKING IN BLACK DIAMOND

BY WILLIAM KOMBOL

Banking in Black Diamond just got a lot harder. On August 2, 2019, Columbia Bank closed its branch leaving Black Diamond bankless, yet again. This is the third bank to open, then close during the 105-year history of Black Diamond banking.

In the early days, there was less need for a bank as the Black Diamond Coal Mining Co. and later Pacific Coast Coal Co. operated on the company town model. Coal miners received their pay in cash or by credit redeemable at the company store. With his wages credited, a miner went to the store where coupons could be issued and deducted from his account. The coupons were also good for cash and were likely accepted by other merchants in town.

The first known bank opened in 1914, when the State Bank of Black Diamond was organized by a former coal miner, Charles McKinnon. His partners included Otto K. Strizek and David D. James with Pierson L. Bingay as cashier. Within a year the bank boasted more than \$47,000 in deposits, with McKinnon serving as president. McKinnon was also Black Diamond's postmaster from 1911 until 1915. The firm almost collapsed from a bad investment, but McKinnon threw his own money into the business and

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Left Photo: Columbia Bank in July 2019. Photo by Bill Kombol.

Right Photo:

The State Bank of Black Diamond, circa 1921. The woman on the right is Lila Allen Haynes. The bank was located in the Pacific Coast Company building #127, which later became Koerner Drug Store (1922); Confectionary (1931); Art Gallery (1984); and Black Diamond Pizza & Deli (1998-2019). The building is located at the intersection of Baker Street and Railroad Avenue, kitty-corner from the museum.



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).

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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

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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)

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FEATURE POEM

This Town (Black Diamond) By Robin Boschert

This town holds many memories, of days so long ago. The only work here to be found were the coal mines down below.

Times were tough for many then; they had to do their best. Their money went to feed their kids, and housing took the rest.

Mom stayed home and baked her bread, Dad worked hard all day. The kids all had their chores to do, before they went to play.

The Saloon was always full of fun, the men would gather here. A place to go relax a bit and maybe have a beer.

Labor Day was really great. It still goes on today. Everyone in town comes out to play the day away.

Lots to do for young and old. Lots of games and food. A parade will start at 10AM and get you in the mood.

This town holds many memories, of days so long ago. The perfect place to raise your kids. And sadly watch them grow.

Thank you Robin for this lovely poem!



Share your historic family photos

And a short story behind it. Email a PDF or jpeg to leih023@gmail.com

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: SUMMER 2019

Hello and welcome to our museum newsletter.

Amazon Smile -

Amazon Smile is a system that takes a portion of the price of your orders and



A MESSAGE from the

PRESDIENT



KEITH WATSON zation of your choice. I'm asking you to join our other members who have opted to order from Amazon Smile. Switch to Amazon Smile to help support the Black Diamond Historical Society. We are a non-profit organization registered with Amazon Smile and you can trace what your orders do to support us. Prices are the same as on the standard Amazon. Thanks for your consideration.

nates it to a non-profit organi-

4Culture of King County

4Culture of King County has been a supporter of the Black

Diamond Historical Society for many years with monetary grants to sustain us and grants that help us maintain the museum while helping us to keep history alive. We are an all-volunteer organization that works very hard to maintain the museum and we are very grateful to them for all they do in our community and the rest of King County. We recently completed a grant that allowed us to replace light fixtures with state-of-the art LED units that save energy, cast more light, emit no ultra-violet light, have an estimated life span of 50,000 hours, eliminating a need for volunteers to climb tall ladders to maintain them or change light bulbs or tubes.

We recently completed another one of their grants that allowed us to repair and paint the exterior of the

museum. We are so grateful for these grants and grateful for our wonderful volunteers and their great skills that helped complete these grants. A great big thanks to 4Culture of King County & outstanding volunteers.



I appointed Gomer Evans to be the manager of the project and he swung into action acquiring products from Sherwin-Williams at four corners Maple Valley. He was able to receive special help from them



L-R: Ron Huesser, Dennis Richardson, and Mike Chilcott

for which we are very grateful. The last time the building was painted was about 12 years ago by Steve Israel. The color remains the same and looks outstanding. Thanks to Ron, Dennis, Mike, Gomer, and 4Culture of King County. A job well done.

Student Visits

It's been a tradition for many years to have the

Black Diamond Elementary 3rd grade classes visit the museum to learn about Black Diamond history and coal mining. They are always polite, alert, and smart; the future leaders of our community. What a delight to be able to teach and learn from these bright children. It takes about an hour to tour the museum and then a couple of days later they take a bus to the coal mining town site of Franklin and visit the coal mine where they eat their lunch. A fascinating day that will last in their memories forever.

Another group of students visit us each year from the Auburn High School Washington State History class taught by Tori Ammons. Great kids who have a passion for learning history. Future leaders who see a program of slides by Dee Israel, narration by Don Mason, and original songs and music by Steve Israel. After the presentation they tour the museum and then go to the Bakery for Breakfast. Thanks to all who make these student visits possible.

Black Diamond School Reunion

The annual Black Diamond School Reunion was held across the street from the museum at the Eagles Hall. Fun was had by all who attended with the noise of laughter and conversation that was evident as so many of the former students enjoyed seeing each other and having a great dinner. The museum sponsored this event under the leadership of Sherrie Evans and her wonderful committee.

Thanks for all who made

Continued on next page

Presidents Message

Cont. from previous page

this possible and to all who were able to attend.

Black Diamond Video Premier

I had a conversation with Tina McGann who expressed a desire to show people how Black Diamond came to be and the people who lived here in the past. Little did I know what was in her mind. She decided to have a professional video made telling the story of Black Diamond and donate it to the museum for us to use in any way we wished. This video is about 50 minutes long and was premiered July 12 at the Black Diamond Elementary School. The attendees really enjoyed the video. After the video Tina and Jack McGann gave the ownership of the video to the Historical Society for its use. Will it be available for distribution to our members? We will see what action will be taken in the next few months.

Electrical Donated Work

McGann Electric donated time and materials to upgrade the electrical system inside and outside the museum. We now have electrical outlets on the exterior of the building instead of using extension cords. They also installed automatic flood lights for the American flag as we fly it at night. Thank you so much for your week of work and your dedicated men who were greeted each morning at 7AM by Gomer Evans who opened and oversaw the project. Thanks Gomer. A job well done!

Miners Day 2019

The Miners Day, a City Event, was held on Saturday July 13th starting with a Coal Miners Classic 5K Run at 9am with the vendor booths opening on Railroad Avenue at the same time. The 5K run awards presentation at 10:30, 11:30 Donut eating contest, Noon Women's Suffrage Skit, Cosmos Dream Band on North stage 12:30, Vintage Fashion Show 1pm South stage, 3pm Jessi Jumper & the Maple Valley Idol Jr. Program South Stage. The event closed at 4pm. Lots to look at lots of fun and entertainment. The amount of hours expended by all of the volunteers to make this event work is hard to comprehend.

Special things to look at were: Antiques & Vintage Merchandise, Vintage Camper trailer, Old Time Photo Booth, Special Museum Displays, Children's Crafts, Food & Beer Garden at the Bakery, Suffrage Booth with Lynn Mason about her Great Great Great Grandmother Mary Olney Brown's experience in voting, Bounce at Diamond Square Party Drawing, Sausage on a Stick – Smoke House & More, plus many information booths. Just had a lot of family fun!

Next City Event

The Labor Day Event will occur August 31, September 1, Labor Day on Monday September 2 with a Parade at 10, lots of activities on the School playground, Museum activities, 200+ Car Show at the Eagles, 3 days of fun and activities. Come early to gain good parking.

Vintage Fire Truck

The vintage fire truck has been very visible of late being in the Maple Valley Parade and in the Enumclaw 4th of July Parade advertising the Miners Day Event. It was also prominent at the Miners Day event and on sunny week ends at the museum. It will be in the Labor Day Parade advertising the Hometown Christmas Event sponsored by the Museums Historical Society. It will carry Santa to that event as well as the tree lightings in town. All made possible by Joe and Mike Androsko families who volunteer to drive the truck. Thank you so much.



Maybe this little guy will be a future driver of the fire truck!

We are all working hard at keeping history alive. Thank you for your interest and support.

We all hope you have a wonderful summer.

Keith Watson,

President BDHS



"RUNAWAYS" Reminiscing with Jim Vernarelli

(reprint from the January 1983 newsletter)

Runaways – In the early days of the 1900's the kids in Black Diamond had a lot of excitement and pleasure along with the hard work. The runaway horses with their wagons were one of them. Also, the various repairmen, junk collectors and peddlers.

We remember the time when the Coal Company Store delivery wagon team had a runaway. They were parked in front of the Company Store when for some reason they decided to run away. They were frisky, fast team. From the store, they came "like a bat out of hell" down the road between the Butcher Shop and the Bakery towards Italian Town below the tracks. They ran down the hill, then decided to turn right on the road behind the Company Store. When they went to make the sharp turn to the right, they were going so fast that the lines fastened onto the front of the long wagon tongue broke loose and of all things the wagon tongue went straight through the center of a Wash House.

In those days, the coal miners did not have shower facilities at the coal mines for the miners to use as they do now. Instead some of the coal miner's homes had a little one-room shed with a little coal stove in it to heat water so the miners could take a bath in galvanized tubs. The shed was called their Wash House. Well, anyway, the tongue went straight through to the other end of the Wash House. Of all things, there were four bachelors of the home taking a bath.

You should have seen them come running out of the Wash House! Stark naked! Not a one of them was hurt but you should have heard them yelling and cursing in Italian! Imagine how surprised and dumbfounded they were. They thought the world had come to an end. The little house is still standing, although the Wash House is long gone. It was the house into which Carl and Ann Steiert moved and spent the first seven years of their married life. Grant and Peggy Griffin have remodeled it and live there now. (36 years ago in 1983)



"Runaway Horses" by Frank Schoonover, published in American Magazine, November 1914 P. 21 New Britain Museum of American Art DSC08998

NOMINATIONS

Here is a call for nominations:

Officers and Directors of the Black Diamond Historical Society are elected every two years. In October of this year there will be an election for these positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Board of Directors positions. If you would like to be nominated or wish to nominate someone, with their permission, please notify, in writing, Dee Israel in care of BDHS PO BOX 232 Black Diamond WA 98010.

McGann Electric LLC

A big **Thank you** goes out to McGann Electric for all the work and materials they donated to update our electricity.

BANKING IN BLACK DIAMOND

Continued from front page

BY WILLIAM KOMBOL



Thomas F. Fournier, cropped from a photo with Nat Moore and Mrs. Bingay.

every depositor was paid in full.

By 1920, a new bank president, Thomas Fournier. had assumed control. He was of small stature and walked with a cane, thereby acquiring a certain sympathy from the local populace. Fournier gained additional trust by attending both churches every Sunday. He was extremely welleducated and able to speak, read, and write five lan-

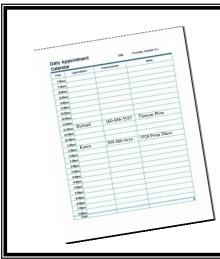
guages, which no doubt helped him build rapport with the large immigrant population, many speaking broken English.

One weekend in May 1921, Fournier boarded a bus headed for Seattle, after first enlisting a depositor, Ben Mercer, to help him load what he claimed were blankets he was taking to the dry cleaners. The boxes contained most of the bank's cash and securities. A few days later, the bank teller discovered the theft and a warrant was issued for Fournier's arrest. Due to his French roots it was believed he escaped to Canada, perhaps Quebec his birthplace.

Telegrams seeking Fournier's arrest were broadcast throughout the U.S. and Canada. According to newspaper reports Fournier, age 50, left his wife, daughter, and two sons behind. Yet, the 1920 census showed Fournier living in the bank building and listed no family members. None of the depositors' money, most of which belonged to coal miners, was recovered. The bank quickly closed and Fournier was never seen again. The old bank vault still remains in the building, which until recently housed Black Diamond Pizza & Deli.

For the next 40 years, Black Diamond was without a bank. Early in that period coal miners would give their money to Antonia Minaglia for safekeeping. Mrs. Minaglia was the wife of Giovani (John) Minaglia, who helped finance passage for fellow Italians to emigrate. She put each miner's money in a different can, burying them in their cellar, yet never making a mistake as to the ownership of each can.

In 1963, the First National Bank of Enumelaw



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

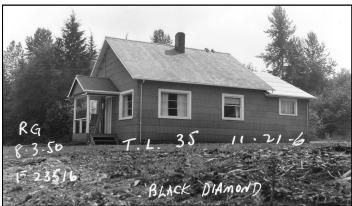




Continued from previous page opened a new branch in the building now occupied by the Black Diamond Community Center on Highway 169. A year earlier, the Zumek brothers opened a nearby grocery store which precipitated a decline of the old downtown. By the late 1960s, Zumek's store had expanded into what became known as the Black Diamond Shopping Center, stretching most of the way to the bank. A dentist's office was added in 1975.

However, Black Diamond's declining population, combined with the growth of Four Corners and changing retail habits, eventually doomed prospects for a full-scale grocery store. The grocery store building resized several times and now houses a pawn shop, the 76 Food mart, plus several restaurants and shops. In 1990, Puget Sound National Bank purchased the First National Bank of Enumclaw and soon closed that Black Diamond branch. Once again, the town founded by coal miners found itself without a bank. Puget Sound National later sold out to KeyBank.

About 750 feet north of that bank stood a miner's home, seen in a nearby King County assessor photo. The house was moved from the coal mining town of Durham to a lot on Highway 169 around 1950. It was owned by Ed Morris, a co-founder of Palmer Coking Coal, who lived there until his death in 1959. Occu-



King County assessor photo of tax parcel 112106-9035, August 3, 1950. This miner's home was moved from Durham to Black Diamond in 1950 and set ablaze as a fire department drill in 1980. This site became the future location of Mount Rainier Bank.

pied as a rental until 1980, the deteriorating building was burned to the ground by the fire department as a training drill that year. The property was next used for storage and sale of firewood until Mt. Rainier Nation



Five shares of stock in the State Bank of Black Diamond issued to Morgan Davis by Thomas Fournier, bank president in 1920. Courtesy of Verna Thompson.

al Bank purchased the property and completed its new branch building in January 1998.

Black Diamond residents flocked to the new bank whose staff included several employees who'd formerly worked for First National Bank of Enumclaw. In August 2007, Columbia State Bank bought out Mt. Rainier as part of an aggressive campaign to create a regional banking giant with branches in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Columbia started as a community bank in Tacoma in 1993, where Puget Sound National had once been headquartered.

On April 23, 2019, Columbia Bank announced the impending closure of its Black Diamond branch. It was one of three branches to be closed, the others in Concrete, Washington, and King City, Oregon. When asked, Columbia Bank officials stated these branches lacked sufficient foot traffic and commercial loan production to sustain the size of their respective facilities. In the case of King City and Black Diamond, nearby branches could serve the existing customer base. Columbia Bank has suggested that with growth from the Ten Trails development they hope to one day return to Black Diamond, but in a smaller space reflecting today's banking needs.

Time and fortune will determine when and if a bank returns to Black Diamond.

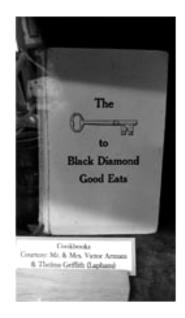




THE BLACK DIAMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

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



Deryl K. Sleigh August 31, 1925 ~ April 5, 2019

Deryl Kenneth Sleigh was born on August 31, 1925 in South Prairie, Washington to Joseph Henry and Ann Holyan Sleigh. He died on April 5, 2019 at the family cabin in Cumberland, Washington. He lived, by his account, an idyllic childhood surrounded by family and friends in South Prairie and neighboring communities of Wilkeson, Upper and

Lower Burnett, Carbonado, and Buckley. He was an endless storyteller, captivating his children with stories of small town life and childhood friends. He loved country music, especially cowboy, railroad, and hobo songs, many of which he sang with his children as they rode in the 1949 Dodge Green Hornet, washed and dried the dishes, and raked the yard. Deryl joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 17, serving as a radio navigator on a night squadron TBM Avenger airplane. Upon discharge, he graduated from Western Washington University with a degree in Education. Later, he spent summers in Seattle, earning his Master's Degree from the University of Washington. He was an educator for 35 years (grades 3-8). He started teaching in Carson, Washington; then spent six years in Black Diamond. The remainder of his career was in Enumclaw (including two years as vice principal at the old junior high school and 16 years as principal at Westwood Elementary). He was honored to be nominated as national Outstanding Educator of the Year by the Westwood PTA upon his retirement. He was a member of the Eagles, Elks, American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Above all, Deryl loved his family and his church. Upon marriage to Dorothy, he converted to Catholicism, attending Mass at both Sacred Heart and St. Barbara's. He joins his parents, sister Betty Jo Cathey, and son-in-law Bill Wilson in heaven. He leaves behind his wife of 61 years, Dorothy (Lokovsek); his children Staci Sleigh-Layman (Dan), Kelli Wilson, Mike Sleigh (Tessa), Whitney Sleigh

Jorgenson (Clint), and Marti Berrett (Scott); his grand-children Claire Layman (Brock Alderman), Andy Layman (Kaycee), Ellie Layman (Daniel Sears), Sara Wilson, Martin Wilson, Corissa Berrett (Ryan), Justis Berrett, Macie Berrett, and Kai Berrett; and his great-granddaughter Kennedy Layman.

Deryl also leaves behind a large crowd of other children (now middle aged or older) who he loved and who loved him in return. The best part of his day was spending time on the playground at Westwood School revelling in the games and laughter of childhood. When asked how old he was, he would always answer, "I'm 92!" He was always young at heart.

He thoroughly enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren compete in sports, rarely missing a game or match. His only ask on retirement was for a lifetime pass to attend Enumclaw sports events. The last time he used it was a couple of weeks ago watching the Enumclaw-White River Hornet rivalry at Osborne Field.

Deryl and Dorothy loved to dance! The Deryl & Dorothy Sleigh Dance for Life Fund has been established to support dancing in fifth grade classrooms. Please send donations to:

Deryl & Dorothy Sleigh Dance for Life Fund Enumclaw Schools Foundation C/O Enumclaw School District 2929 McDougall Avenue Enumclaw, Washington 98022





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 second quarter of 2019 we have acquired the following memberships:

Renewed Memberships:

New Memberships:

Joni Evans
M. Elinor Kerr
Henry "Hank" Celigoy
The Hair Scene
Black Diamond Auto Parts





DONATIONS

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



MEMORIAL DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF:

Deryl Sleigh - Gerald & Nancy Kuzaro
- Byron & Janie Parkinson
Jackie Cederholm, Seattle Welsh Women's Club
Matt Starwich - Paula Perkins
Pauline Kombol - Lois Hamilton
Richard Hoyt - Lori Bowman-Hoyt
Gerald Thompson - Gloria Thompson
Corlett Family - David Luke

ARCHIVE PRESERVATION FUND FIRE TRUCK RESTORATION FRANKLIN FUND HONORARIAM MINER'S DAY SPECIAL PROJECTS

DONATIONS ARE ALSO WELCOME FOR -

NEWSLETTER FUND

WELSH HERITGE DAY FUND HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS FUND

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS MADE BY:

Green River College,
Donna Bortko,
Debra Twersky,
Robert & Anna Marie Duncan,

SECURITY SYSTEM FUND

Clifford & Virgina Olsen



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 January 1st of each year

Rei	ewais aue January 1st of each year.	KING COUNTY LODGING TAX	
	BDHS Member	rship Fees	
Name(s)	Annual Individual Annual Family Annual Business Lifetime Individual	\$20.00	
Address	Lifetime Family Newsletter Fund Donation	\$300.00	
CitySt Z	Total Enclosed	\$ \$ \$	
E-mail	New	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 Or please note purpose of check. (Dues, Donation,		
(Museum Use Only) Referred by:I	ate: Posted by:Date:_	(rev. 08/01/14)	

783

Number of guests
visiting the
museum during the
Second quarter of

2019

Be Our Guest

by Laurie Evans

Visitors from California, Arizona, Utah, Montana, Kentucky, Illinois, Maine, Oregon and South Africa in addition to those from both Western and Eastern Washington.

Comments

"Happy to have seen the museum. So much history. We love it."

"Great place. Interesting."

"Amazing to see the old pictures!"

"Daughter of Charles Corlett

and Dorothy Franz – back home!"

"Merci beaucoup!"

"Wonderful historic landmark."

"Awesome place."

"A treasure – thank you very

much."

"Great historical value – beautiful presentation."

"LOVED!!! Such a great collection and wonderful staff."





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.

PUT THIS on your calendar!

2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

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. 14 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

SPECIAL NOTE:

The BDHS fiscal year is now January 1 – December 31, as new by-laws were approved by the membership on March. Therefore, memberships due to expire on July 31, 2019, are now extended until December 31, 2019. We will provide reminders in the fall newsletter.