



◆ NEWSLETTER ◆

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**THE MAN WHO BUILT A MOUNTAIN**

*Frank Manowski and the Slag Pile in Black Diamond*

BY BILL KOMBOL



*Frank Manowski operating the drum hoist, Jan. 1973.*

There are a number of old coal slag piles in and around Black Diamond and Franklin. Most are covered with trees or blackberries. To the novice they appear to be just another hill. The largest is over a million cubic yards and rises 100-feet above the surrounding landscape. It's located west of State Route 169 behind Palmer Coking Coal's mine office. This is the story of that mountain and the man most instrumental in building it. His name was Frank Manowski.

During underground mining of coal, impurities such as shale, rock, and slack were inevitably brought to the surface. In the early days old men and boys manned picking tables where waste material was separated from clean coal. In later years, mechanical wash plants cleansed the coal in a specific gravity process using large tanks of water. In either case the resulting waste or slag had to be disposed. Dumping the material downhill was the first option, but even that created a need for rail tracks when the upper reaches became clogged with too much waste. When a mine was located in a flat area the

**Banner Photo:** *The red cinder slag pile in 1923 from the Pacific Coast Bulletin, Oct. 11, 1923*

*Continued on page 6*



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 three times a year 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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**FEATURE WRITER** William Kombol

**PHOTOGRAPHER** Bob Dobson

#### **ARTICLES**

Black Diamond Newsletter 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](mailto: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](mailto:museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org)

#### **WEB**

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[www.blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com](http://www.blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com)  
[www.twitter.com/BDHistory](https://www.twitter.com/BDHistory)

**HOURS** - "Currently closed under COVID rules"

Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW LOGO!

*By Leih Mulvihill*



Our new logo, designed by RK Graphics of Enumclaw, depicts several different symbols important to the Black Diamond Historical Society.

The first thing you notice is that it is in the shape of a coal miner's lantern, an important tool in helping him to see along the long dark tunnels of the mine shaft.

The next dominate feature is the coal miner himself, a depiction of the statue that now stands in honor of all the miners who lost their lives in Washington State mines.

Off on the left and behind the miner is the museum building with the track and the engine in the far back just under the miner's pick. This pays tribute to the trains used to transport this vital resource to waiting vessels and then to commercial districts up and down the Pacific Coast.

In the background is the rising sun, shining light on the valuable history of our coal mining legacy and finally the name embossed across the bottom of the lantern, giving it a firm foundation.

Thank you RK Graphics for your beautiful work! It is truly amazing!

# PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: WINTER 2020

*Hello and welcome to our museum newsletter.*

Like everybody else the COVID-19 pandemic issue took us by surprise. Washington State government took action closing all businesses that are not essential. As of the date of this letter

## A MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT



KEITH  
WATSON

ter the Governor has extended the shutdown of businesses until the end of May. The museum does not qualify as an essential business which closes the museum until further notice.

What does this mean for the Black Diamond Historical Society/museum and community? Cancellations of planned events are the General Membership Meeting, Franklin tours, senior tours, public school tours, private school tours, and

special group tours, Maple Valley parade, Welsh Heritage Day, BD school reunion, Miners Day event/5K run, and the Labor Day Parade. Board meetings are being conducted via e-mail and U.S. Mail.

“We are not yet sure of the Pasta Palooza-Fundraiser for Hometown Christmas; nor the Enumclaw 4<sup>th</sup> of July or Christmas parades. Watch our website for updates.”

The grocery stores are open limiting how many customers may be in the store at one time. We are being told to stay in our houses and not to use the parks, hiking trails, etc. and wear masks and keep a 6-foot distance between us and others. No barber shops, hair solons, public and private schools, church meetings, club meetings, ball games, and more.

People can work from home or, if essential, go to their work-place but what about those who

can't; they need assistance.

### There is Some Help

The Black Diamond Community Center has drive-by meals for seniors on Tuesdays and Thursdays and has food bank goods available on Mondays and Wednesdays. Enumclaw, Kent, and Tahoma school districts have meals for kids on a drive by basis and the local Backpack food for kid's program is in full swing. The hardships on people and families are many. The Federal, State, and local governments are trying to provide help. If possible, please seek out people that are in trouble and give them a helping hand and please give to your local food banks. Hang in there, we can make it together!

### Status of the Museum

As a historical society we have outstanding volunteers who are working from home to keep us current and continue working on plans of how we can keep ourselves and visitors safe when given the green light from the government to open the museum.

Safety is our primary concern, as well as having the very best museum in Southeast King County. We have updated many of our displays on the main floor and added new signage inside and outside the museum. The basement upgrade display program is well underway with new cabinets being designed and constructed by volunteers. Many new themes and ways of showing the artifacts will be in place, hopefully by the end of summer.

We are alive and well and will continue to keep history alive. Here's hoping you and yours have a wonderful spring and summer.

### Black Diamond is Growing Positively

The area just south of Black

*Continued on next page*

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

*Cont. from previous page*

Diamond Square and the area south of Boots Tavern on Hwy 169 has been cleared of trees. I believe both areas are designated as zoned for business. We'll see what develops!

### Welcome New Businesses

We have a new business in the city named *Provident Electric* which is located just south of the trailer court on Highway 169. This business has been serving residential electric services in the Pacific Northwest since 1985. They have constructed an office/warehouse with a large parking lot and an attractive water fountain with landscaped grounds. Welcome to Black Diamond!

Another new business is located next to the old Dinner House on Roberts Drive. Named *Redline Mechanical* they are serving Mechanical Contractors and Plumbing Contractors. They remodeled the old laundromat building making it look like new. Welcome to Black Diamond!

There are two businesses that have been sold and are in the process of remodeling, the Pizza Deli across from the museum and Mama Passarelli's restaurant across from the City Hall. We look forward to these new eateries and welcome them. (*\*photos on last page*)

### Ten Trails Community

The Master Plan Development in Black Diamond is growing. There are two roundabouts along the Black Diamond Auburn road that provide 2 entrances to the Ten Trails Community. There are many homes under construction with over 200 being sold and occupied. The developer, Oakpointe, provides landscaping at each home, along the streets, with added parks and play places for neighbors to congregate. The area looks first class and we *welcome our new neighbors.*

The City and Oakpointe have constructed sidewalks on the south side of Roberts Drive that

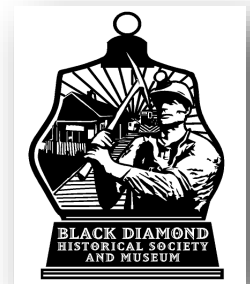
connects Historic Black Diamond with Ten Trails allowing walking and bike riding between the areas for all to enjoy. It will be interesting to see the businesses who choose to set up shop in our communities in the near future.

I believe the Black Diamond historic district will just keep improving and growing. The land between the museum and Antique Mall has been gifted to the City to be used as an historical area. Some suggestions have been a veteran's memorial with a covered stage for events. Any suggestions? We would love to hear your ideas to share with the city.

### County Landmark Designation for the Museum

The Black Diamond Museum, a City museum, occupies the old train depot which is designated as a State of Washington Landmark. We are applying to be a designated King County Landmark. It's been a fun process looking into the history of the building that was constructed in 1886 as the train depot for the Columbia and Puget Sound Railroad. Over the years there have been additions and improvements to the building. Chasing down the uses and changes is challenging but the history is so rewarding. Who of you can remember the train coming to town and how did it impress you? Do you recall the different uses of the old train depot? Hats off to Ron Heusser and Steve Israel for digging into this information for us and to Sarah Steen, Landmark Coordinator, for King County, she did a ton of work!

*Keith Watson,  
BDHS President*



# BOIL DISHWATER AND BANISH INFLUENZA GERMS; DISEASE SPREAD AT DINING TABLE, SAYS DOCTOR

(Originally published in The Seattle Sunday Times, February 16, 1919)

Submitted by Sherrie Evans



Observations in Army and in mining camps show chief source of contamination is mess kit.

“Watch your dish washing and avoid the influenza!”

A system of washing dishes that will employ complete sterilization is probably the most effective way of preventing the spread of influenza, according to **Dr. Ira. C. Brown**, medical inspector of the city schools, who bases his opinion on personal experiences in fighting the disease at the Black Diamond and Franklin mines and also on the reports of officers of the United States Army Medical Corps.

Dr. Brown says he believes influenza has come to stay, more or less, as other diseases, and that it should be thoroughly studied and steps taken to prevent it from taking the form of epidemics. In his opinion it is similar to the pneumonic plague of the Orient, with which he had had considerable experience.

“Evidence seems to be accumulating which appears to show that in a great majority of cases influenza is transmitted by indirect contact,” said Dr. Brown. “In some 66,000 observations made by **Col. Charles Lynch** and **Lieut. Col. James G. Cumming** of the Army Medical Corps, it has been demonstrated that the mess kit was responsible for the transmission of this disease and largely through the wash water which was contaminated by mouth organisms.

## **Sterilize Dishes**

“It is generally believed by those who are competent observers that the chief source of the disease is the nose and throat and, of course, direct contact is one of the important factors in the dissemination. The way this indirect contamination is brought about is by the use of dishes, knives, spoons, etc., which have been first contaminated and then washed in lukewarm water which contaminates the water. The hands that are used in washing the dishes also become contaminated and, as everybody knows, the hands reach the mouth and nose hundreds of times daily, so that anyone ill with influenza using dishes which are washed in common with others may infect the whole family.

“In the Army, where such observations may be had on a large scale, it was

*Influenza cont. on page 10*

## **SPRING TIME GARDEN CARE**

Our Honor Garden and grounds look beautiful thanks to our wonderful volunteer, Jane Falding. While Jane recruits others to assist her from time-to-time, most of the work is done by her. She carefully tends to each plant and the results of her work is show worthy! So, when you drive by and see her tending to our grounds, be sure to shout out a hello and thanks!



# THE MAN WHO BUILT A MOUNTAIN

By William Kombol

*Continued from page 1* coal slag problem needed a better solution. The easiest method was building a stockpile using the same equipment down in the mine: coal cars on rail tracks.

In 1896 a new mine opened in Black Diamond. Named Morgan Slope in honor of the Black Diamond Coal Mining Company's Superintendent, Morgan Morgans, it was destined to be the largest and most successful in western Washington. Pacific Coast Coal Co. purchased the mine and company town in 1904. After 1913 Morgan Slope became known as Mine 11 for the section of land where it was located. It was once the deepest underground coal mine in the United States. Morgan Slope / Mine 11 closed in 1927, having produced nearly 7 million tons of coal during 31 years of operation, averaging 225,000 tons per year.

Morgan Slope featured the McKay seam, one of the finest grades of coal in the state. The same McKay seam was mined in Ravensdale, Lawson, and Franklin. Geologists described it as pitch black with a vitreous luster "which compares very favorably with the better grades of bituminous coal obtained in the Eastern States." But like every coal seam the McKay contained shaly coal and bone mixed with sandstone particularly in places with parting rock.



Archie Eltz, Charlie Falk, and Frank Merritt atop the rock dump working on a water pipeline, August 1949

After it was brought to surface, quality coal was separated from waste as clean coal headed to market and refuse was destined for the slag pile. Early on coal quality standards were tight. Only the best coal of highest quality was sold, with most else discarded. That meant slag piles contained significant quantities of coal. Through a process known as spontaneous combustion the slag pile at Morgan Slope caught fire, partly owing to the high

heat qualities of the McKay seam. Once burning, the slag heap was nearly impossible to extinguish and the pile smoldered for decades at temperatures exceeding 2,000° F. The intense heat fused shale, sandstone, clay and silt together while iron pyrites turned the burned slag to shades of red. These giant "ovens" were akin to the brick-making process and resulted in a huge stockpile of burned coal turned to cinder. Some likened it to "nature's brick."



Frank Manowski to the right as the coal car climbs the slag pile, Jan. 1973.

That Morgan Slope stockpile was described in the Oct. 11, 1923 issue of the Pacific Coast Coal Co. Bulletin as follows:

*"Thirteen years ago the present rock dump of Mine 11, at Black Diamond, was begun. Though the mine had been in operation for many years prior to 1910, it was then that the present dump was started when the old dump caught fire. This dump is today an imposing pile of rock and waste material brought out of the mine, and it is constantly growing.*

*Like a small mountain it rises out of the wide expanse of the valley and is visible for a considerable distance. At night the numerous fires which blaze constantly from its base to its summit makes it loom up much after the manner*



View of a coal car climbing the slag pile, Jan. 1973

*Continued next page*

Eventually all available fuel was consumed and the stockpile cooled. Due to its reddish color it was naturally called red cinders. This discard pile soon found value as a surfacing material. The Black Diamond – Ravensdale Road was first built of cinder and colloquially known as “red top” road. High school tracks comprised of finely crushed cinder were common and proved to be ideal running surfaces, though falls resulted in bloodied knees and elbows. The red rock also found its way into many landscape plans. To this day cinders from that old stockpile continue to be sold. Based on sales figures over the past 60 years, the piles described in 1923 likely contained over one million cubic yards.

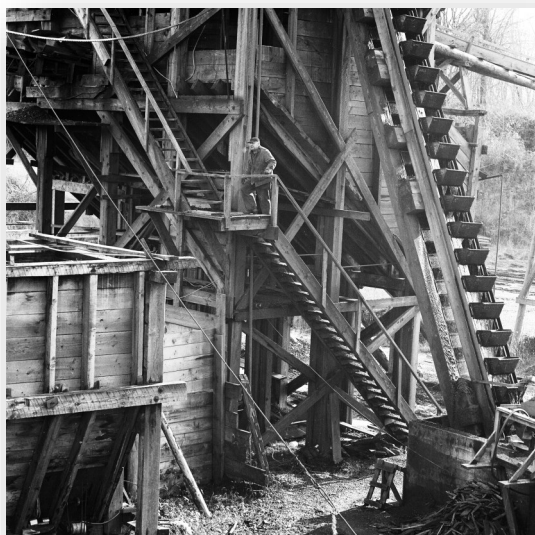
Though Mine 11 closed in 1927, the surrounding rail yard and preparation plant continued to support coal processing. In the years following, coal was mined nearby then brought to the plant, washed of impurities and shipped to market. A new McNally-Norton jig style wash plant was installed in 1945 by Pacific Coast Coal Co. and another stockpile of waste rock began to grow. This pile eventually expanded to an estimated 1.2 million cubic yards. However, because the wash plant cleaned coal more efficiently less ended up as slag. This new pile didn't burn like prior ones, but

smoldered in a process called slow oxidation.

Recent logging in Black Diamond has brought into stark relief this large stockpile of slag and shale behind Palmer Coking Coal's retail sales yard. The pile grew through a relatively simple method. Dozens of times each day a steel cable pulled a loaded railcar to the top of the hill where waste material was dumped.

Over the years one man was more responsible for the building of this pile than any other. Frank Manowski was his name and he was practically synonymous with coal washing operations at the Mine 11 plant. Frank was also a favorite for newspaper photographers who snapped pictures during the fading years of underground coal mining in the early 1970s.

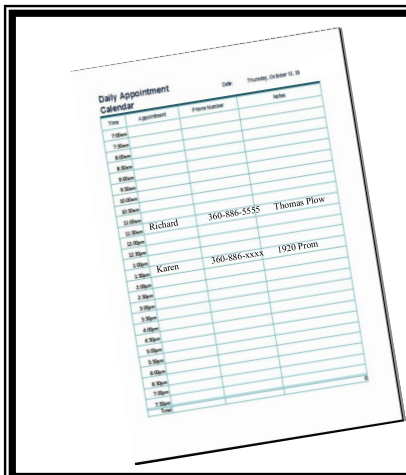
Frank Manowski was born March 18, 1913 to Cornell and Anna Manowski, Polish immigrants who came to Black Diamond in 1900. The couple had 11 children, five girls and six sons the youngest of whom was Frank. Four Manowski boys, Max, Les, George, and Frank followed their father's footsteps into coal mining. Two sisters married coal miners. Frank grew up in Black Diamond graduating from high school in 1932. Afterwards he continued his education with a scholarship to play baseball at St. Martin's College.



Frank Manowski climbing stairs to the top of the bunkers, Jan. 1973

After abandoning college Frank's

Continued on page 8



People who wish to donate artifacts need to make an appointment with Dave Watson to look at the items.

360-886-2142

swatsondc@gmail.com

Please come on a Thursday after making an appointment with Dave to examine the items.



## MOUNTAIN

*Continued from Page 7*

first job was at a saw mill. From 1934-36, he worked underground with his father for the West Coast Fuel Company at their Cedar Mountain coal mine. Frank soon migrated towards surface work in preparation plants outside the mines, first with Pacific Coast Coal, then Strain Coal Co., and finally Palmer Coking Coal Co. Over the next 42 years, Manowski operated preparation plants the vast majority at Mine 11.

Yet Frank never lost his love of sports. He played baseball for 22 years after his school days plus 11 years as a soccer player. He primarily played for Black Diamond company-sponsored teams. Baseball was a large part of local entertainment in company towns such as Ravensdale, Carbonado, and Wilkeson. Weekends were made for sports and baseball was the biggest draw. At the old Black Diamond grandstands near the present-day school, Frank's mother Anna had a special seat where unsuspecting fans were warned against sitting. After many ball games both teams and umpires alike gathered at the Manowski home, located a block west of the Black Diamond Eagles for food, camaraderie, and merriment.

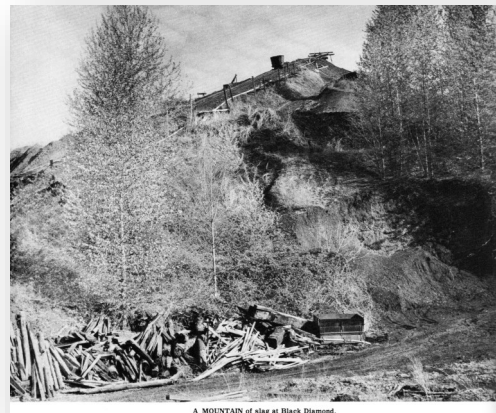
In 1939, Frank married Helen Strom of Enumclaw. Two years later a son was born who they named Frank. The family lived on Lawson Street next to the Presbyterian Church. They moved to Enumclaw in 1959 to a home on Wells Street not far from the hospital. The younger Frank Manowski later made a name for himself as recreational coordinator for King County Parks stationed at the Fieldhouse near Pete's Pool. He held that job for 33 years from 1965-1997.

Back at the Mine 11 preparation plant, Frank toiled day in and day out. He knew every belt and bolt in the plant. Each day dump trucks delivered raw coal first dumped in a hopper. From the truck-dump hopper coal passed over a vibrating screen with 4" pieces falling through. Larger chunks landed on the picking table. There a laborer separated the large pieces of coal sent to a crusher to join the screened coal headed

to the wash plant.

Jigging is an ancient method of mineral processing using gravity and water as a medium. The McNally-Norton washer was a Baum-style jig process with pulsating motion produced by the intermittent admission of compressed air. As the raw mix moved through the

washer deck pistons pushed plates up and down to agitate the coal. Coal being lighter than rock or shale floated through a chute carried by a river of water for further sorting. A bucket conveyor lifted it to the top of the bunkers which held hundreds of tons of coal now ready for shipment by truck or train. The larger



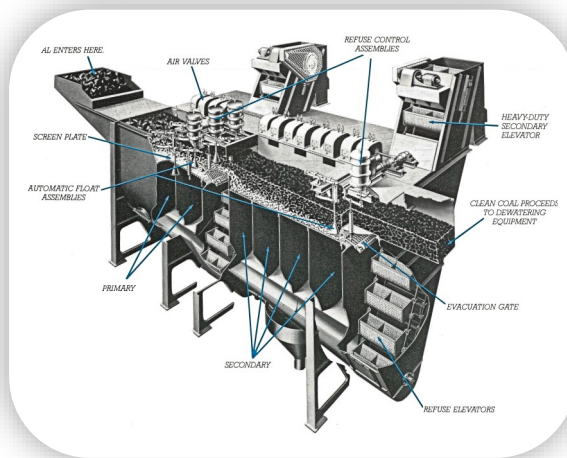
*A 1971 view of the slag pile looking west by McDonald & Lenggenhager from "The Look of Old Time Washington."*

egg-nut coal, typically used by homeowners was separated from smaller stoker coal used in great quantities by large institutions such as schools or prisons.

Inside the McNally-Norton washer box the heavier impurities such as rock, sandstone, shale or bony coal fell to the bottom where a bucket conveyor lifted them out of the wash box. The resulting slag was collected in a hopper. Periodically, Manowski walked behind the plant to lift a chute door

which dropped waste material into a 5-ton coal car. He next activated a hoist drum which pulled a thick steel cable threaded through a bull wheel towing the coal car to the top of the pile. There two steel rails tripped side doors and the slag fell away.

A water pipeline parallel to the track hydraulically flushed the slag downhill. A nearby photo shows



*Illustrated inner workings of the McNally-Norton wash plant.*



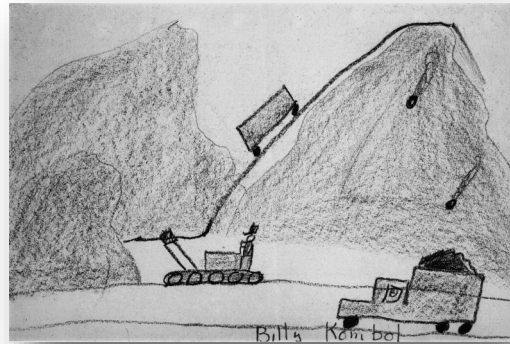
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Archie Eltz, Charlie Falk, and Frank Merritt atop the dump working on the water pipeline that sluiced waste down the stockpile. Introducing water also inhibited spontaneous combustion of the carbon-rich material. After one section of the growing hill became too cluttered with waste material, new ties and rails were laid extending the stockpile even higher.

Any mechanical plant is subject to breakdown, especially a plant that old. Frank was handy and over the years fixed, repaired, and reconfigured the machinery more times than he cared to remember. When Manowski turned 65 in 1978 it was time to retire. Bill McLoughry, another life-long coal miner from Black Diamond took over and ran the plant until he retired in 1981. The wash plant operator position was next filled by Chris Kroha of Lake 12. He ran the plant until the startup of the John Henry surface coal mine when Doug Sikes of Black Diamond took over. Doug operated the plant until November 1990 when the McNally-Norton wash plant was finally shut down after 45 years of continuous operation. After the surrounding machinery and equipment was dismantled, only the large metal wash tub remains.

In April 1991, five months after the Mine 11 wash plant shut down, Frank Manowski died at the age of 78. His wife Helen survived him by 22 years passing away in Enumclaw in November 2013 at the age of 94. Their son, Frank now lives in Bonney Lake.

Many of the photos which accompany this article were taken by Larry Abele in January 1973. Some were used in a feature story about coal mining which appeared in the Sunday, January 14, 1973 supplement, "Now" produced by the Renton Record-Chronicle, Kent News-Journal, and Auburn Globe newspapers.



*A 1st grade drawing of the slag pile by the articles author, Billy Kombol, Circa 1960*

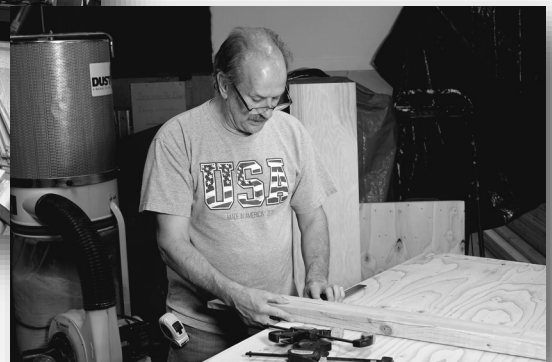
## **VOLUNTEER CREWS HARD AT WORK**

*By Keith Watson*

Since construction is now open, our great volunteer crew is hard at work building new shelving for displays in the basement. Shown here are *Jerry Makosky* and *Ron Heusser*. Greg Lichty, Dennis Richardson and Gomer Evans are also assisting with this project. We look forward to sharing more photos of our finished work in the future.

These new units will be placed all along the east wall of the basement, as well as between the posts. This work will provide for more space for displays. We are working to update the displays that reflect the businesses of Black Diamond in the early days

including but not limited to automotive, carpentry, logging, cobbler shop, blacksmith shop, saloons, and banking; as well as some outdoor recreation items.



*Jerry Makosky cutting shelves*

*Influenza cont. from page 5* found that by using boiling water or, in other words, washing the dishes by a sterilized process there were very few cases or deaths from this disease, but in the organizations where the ordinary method was used, that is, lukewarm dish water, a great number of cases was the result.

### **Remedy is Simple**

“Another important fact noticed was the battalions in which warm water was used in washing dishes the men were physically unfit while in those battalions where boiling water was used the men were hearty and vigorous. It is probably that 80 percent of the cases of influenza in the army was transmitted in this manner, that is, through lukewarm wash water used in connection with the cleansing of mess kits.

“From this investigation we are justified in concluding that the cause of the spread of influenza is known in 80 percent of the cases and the remedy is simple. When the people generally understand that the best preventatives of the disease are to use boiling water for cleansing of dishes, to keep the hands clean and away from the mouth and nose, and to keep sick people or those who have symptoms of influenza, out of the kitchen, the disease will disappear.

“If this holds true with influenza, it will be equally as beneficial in case of measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, and other contagious diseases, so it would seem the watchword should be: ‘Eat only from sterilized dishes and banish the common towel.’”

### **Result Apparent at Once**

Dr. Brown said that when he took charge at the Black Diamond and Franklin mines the kitchens were unsanitary owing to the general disorganization resulting from the influenza. The first thing that was done was to clean up the kitchens and establish a sanitary process of handling the food

and dishes, he said.

“Within eighteen hours after the kitchens had been cleaned up not another new case of influenza came to our notice, wither at Black Diamond or the Franklin mines,” said Dr. Brown. “From my observations at these mines I found that the disease was not transmitted by coughing or sneezing in the face, for I had repeatedly seen it done, without any development of the disease.

“In the case of yellow fever, the mosquito may bite a man with the yellow fever. If he bites another man within less than two or three days, he will not transmit the disease. If he bites the man after the proper time has elapsed, he will come down with the fever.

“In the case of influenza, it is probable that the conditions in the lukewarm water are right for the development of the active influenza germs.

“I have seen whole families down with the influenza and have found that they have been accustomed to washing the dishes in lukewarm water.”



*Commuters in Sydney wearing masks during the influenza pandemic, 1919.  
Image: The Australian*

**Newsletters** – after a board discussion and consultation with our printing company, it has been decided it would be financially helpful to change our distribution from quarterly to three times a year. Therefore, newsletters will be distributed in March, June, and October. In addition, we continually update the website and our Facebook page with lots of information and articles for your interest.



# Black Diamond Historical Society/Museum



Supported by 4CULTURE, the City of Black Diamond, and donations as a  
 501c3 IRS #51-0170304 nonprofit corporation  
 Keeping History Alive in the Black Diamond Museum and Coal Miners Honor Garden  
 Location: 32627 Railroad Ave (PO Box 232), Black Diamond, WA 98010  
 Phone: 360-886-2142 email: museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org

## 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Location/Time
January 1-3	Museum Closed for Holidays (Reopen Jan 4)	Museum
February 11	Newsletter Deadline	Submit to Leih Mulvihill
March 7	Franklin Tour 10 am – 3 pm	Meet @ Museum @ 10 am
April 4	Franklin Tour 10 am – 3 pm	Meet @ Museum @ 10 am
April 26	General Membership Meeting	Museum @ 1:00 pm
May 11	Newsletter Deadline	Submit to Leih Mulvihill
June 3	Black Diamond All School Reunion	@ Black Diamond Eagles 11:00 am - 3 pm
June 6	Welsh Heritage Day	@ Museum 1:00 pm
July 11	Miner's Day	Railroad Ave 9 m – 4 pm
September 5-7	Labor Day Celebration in Black Diamond - Parade is Monday, Sept. 7, 10 am (starts on south end of Highway 169)	Museum open all 3 days. Labor Day Festivities in Ball Park & @ Eagles – Car Show
September 11	Newsletter Deadline	Submit to Leih Mulvihill
September 19	“Pasta Palooza” - fundraiser for Hometown Christmas	@ Eagles 4:00 to 9:00 pm
October 17-18	Model Train Show	Ravensdale-Gracie Hansen Building
October 25	General Membership Meeting	Museum @ 1:00 pm
December 4	Black Diamond Community Center Tree Lighting with Santa	BD Community Center 5 pm
December 5	Enumclaw Christmas Parade	Downtown Enumclaw
December 12	Hometown Christmas	Railroad Ave (Bakery, Smoke House, Antique Store, Museum, Eagles) 10 am- 3 pm
December 14 - January 6	Museum Closed for Holidays	

Events Canceled  
Due To  
COVID-19

# “U.S. DRYS WRECK FOUR PLACES AT MINING VILLAGE; WOMAN HELD ON LIQUOR CHARGES.”

*Originally Published in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer March 16, 1925*

*Submitted By Sherrie Evans*



*Mary Draghi, reputed  
“Bootlegging Queen”*

Thrusting the strong arm of the law into the hitherto little disturbed mining village of Black Diamond, Division Prohibition Chief **F.A. Hazeltine** and a squad of federal agents early yesterday morning seized approximately 2,000 gallons of contraband beverages and arrested “Black Mary,” reputed queen of the foothill bootleggers, and five other alleged purveyors of anti-Volstead liquids.

The liquor was destroyed and the six prisoners brought to Seattle and lodged in the United States immigration station at the foot of Union Street. They will be arraigned for hearing today.

## Six Arrested

The six are Mary Draghi, comely twenty-five-year-old maiden, and reputed queen of Black Diamond rum manufacturers; Pete Draghi, her father; Aniceti Magnan, Nello Merlino and Carlo and Leo Fontana, brothers. All will be charged with possession and sale of liquor, Hazeltine announced last night.

Hazeltine and his men left Seattle at 10 o'clock Saturday night, arriving at the mining town shortly before midnight. “We found a goodly representation of automobiles from Seattle and Tacoma, parked along the streets,” he said. “Brief investigation revealed four dwellings as the center of midnight gaiety.

## 4 Places Wrecked

“Raiding these four establishments, the basements of which were fitted up after the manner of public drinking rooms in France, we seized 1,500 bottles of beer; 400 gallons of home brew in process of manufacture; 800 gallons of wine and a quantity of moonshine. We wrecked the works, and those four basements were veritable pools of beer and wine when we finished.”

The work of smashing the seized bottled goods

in the first establishment visited took so long that operators of the other three houses were frantically destroying their own liquor when the squad arrived to relieve them of the job, he declared.

No patrons of the four “taverns” were arrested.

---

## WOMAN IS ARRESTED AND 2,000 GALLONS DESTROYED

*Originally published in The Seattle Times, March 16, 1925*

One woman and five men were arrested yesterday morning in a raid at Black Diamond, conducted by Divisional Prohibition Chief F.A. Hazeltine and a squad of federal prohibition agents. More than 2,000 gallons of beer and wine were reported destroyed by the raiders.

Those arrested were Mary Draghi and Pete Draghi, her father; the Fontana brothers, Carlo and Leo; Nello Merlino and Aniceti Magnan. According to complaints to Chief Hazeltine's office, the arrested men had been selling liquor to motorists from Seattle and Tacoma.

Further raids at Black Diamond were prevented by word of the first raid spreading to neighbors. Various liquors were poured out before the federal agents arrived, they declared.

The woman and five men were brought to the Seattle immigration detention station and today they will be arraigned before a United States commissioner and released on bail.

---

## FEDERAL DRY AGENTS IN BIG LIQUOR RAIDS

*Originally published in The Seattle Times, September 21, 1926*

In one of the biggest raids of the kind ever conducted in this district, twelve federal prohibition agents under Earl Corwin last evening made sei-

zures of approximately \$25,000 worth of wine, beer and apparatus and supplies used in manufacturing liquor in four places in Black Diamond.

The biggest haul was made at Carl Fontana's place, where Carl and Leo Fontana were arrested and 1,950 gallons of wine, 885 quarts of beer and 10 gallons of moonshine were seized. Tons of bottles, jugs and other equipment were destroyed.

The liquor and equipment, Mr. Corwin said, was concealed in various buildings, caves and dug-outs, some buried and some hidden under wood-piles

Peter Draghi and his daughter, Mary, were arrested at "Big Mary's Place" and more than \$5,000 worth of liquor and apparatus confiscated and destroyed. The seizure included 640 gallons of wine, 300 bottles of beer and some moonshine.

---

## BLACK DIAMOND WOMAN FINED ON LIQUOR CHARGE

*Originally published in The Seattle Times, March 25, 1927*

Mary Draghi, 22 years old, of Black Diamond, yesterday was fined \$250 and given a suspended sentence of sixty days in the county jail on liquor possession charges. Her mother, Mrs. Nealdi Draghi, was fined \$500 and given a similar sentence two weeks ago.

---

## PROHIBITION DAYS

*Originally published in the BDHS newsletter, February 1992*

**By Ann Steiert**

In the museum we have taken one small room and converted it into our "Booze Room." In it we have a restored cider press, assorted bottles and glasses along with a whiskey still.

On the wall is a sign telling everyone that during National Prohibition Days bootlegging was our

No. 2 industry. Many people get a charge out of that. We tell them a bit of how it was in those days when the country was dry.

At that time many people made and sold liquor. The county sheriff was the famous Matt Starwich. He was a many faceted person. He was a fearless officer and did his duty but he was not averse to taking some extra money if it were offered to him.

In Black Diamond there was a group of major producers. They had an agreement amongst themselves that they would take turns getting fined when the sheriff came out to raid the town. He would come out periodically as required by federal law and try to catch someone making whiskey.

He would come out and stop at the billiard parlor and shoot a game of pool. The word would soon spread around town that the feds were in town. It is said that he really hit the other producers who weren't in the group. If they happened to have a big batch on hand they would hurry and hide the booze out in the woods. At that time the forest was right near town.

Then there was a third element who would go into the woods and steal the hidden whiskey. This was almost sure to set off a fight after the Feds had gone away.

When we tell the museum visitors about the Prohibition times they are many times reminded of some incident they have heard of in their own town.



*Note: Our planned new displays in the basement will include information and photos like this to represent the days of prohibition in Black Diamond.* ◆

# DONATIONS

We wish to thank the following for their generous donations during the period  
February 1- April 30, 2020.

By Laurie Evans,



## MEMORIAL DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF:

### Gail Kuzaro

Lois Darby

### Jim Wetton

Lois Darby

### Matt & Hannah Starwich

Paula Perkins

### GENERAL FUND:

Nils & Lois Ladderud  
Jim & Cathy Bradley

### NEWSLETTER FUND:

Nils & Lois Ladderud  
Steve Fontana  
Gary Gibbon  
Stacey Chisam  
Beverly Prkacin Read  
Donna Bortko

### FIRETRUCK FUND:

Cheryl Dubbs

And a **special thank you** to Ronald Healy for the donation of gravel for Franklin.

Donations are always welcome for these special funds:

- Newsletter
- Firetruck
- General
- Hometown Christmas
- Memorials
- Miners Day
- Security System
- Welsh Heritage Day.



*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.



*Australia April 6, 2020 © Provided by ABC Health Hannah Armstrong (right) re-created a photograph of her relatives living through the 1919 pandemic. (Supplied: Hannah Armstrong)*

*www.msn.com/en-au/news/australia/history-shows-regional-communities-not-immune-to-the-effects-of-virus-pandemics/ar-BB12eLkX )*



# NEW MEMBERS

By Laurie Evans, Membership Chairman



The Black Diamond Historical Society now has 304 members, as of January 31, 2020. For the period February 1 through April 20, 2020, we have acquired the following new members:

Jane Falding  
Troy Coby  
Andrea Coby  
John Utgaard  
Lillian Bradley

**Business:**

The Connor Home Group, LLC

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! We are so happy to have you.

**Individual:**

**Lifetime Individual:**

Cindy Jessup



**The following memberships expired on December 31, 2019.**

**We have sent out reminder notifications as we had hoped to not lose these valuable members. Unfortunately, this will be their last newsletter as they will be removed for non-payment.**

Bonnie Bingham & family  
Donna D. Carey  
Cliff Johnson  
Pauline VanRudden

Lori Bowman-Hoyt  
Ralph E. Dockham  
Joan Newman  
Fran Wold

James D. Carey  
Brenda Everson  
Rebecca & James Teeters



203\*

Number of guests for  
the period February  
1, 2020 to April 30,  
2020

2020

## Be Our Guest

by Laurie Evans

Visitors from a few states and Eastern and Western Washington.  
(\*Mandated public closure March 7, 2020 due to "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order.)

*C o m m e n t s*

"So fun!"

"Good history – thank you!"

"We had a lovely time."

"Awesome."

"Great museum."

"Well done, keep it up."

"We learned a lot. So fun!"



## CHECK OUT THE UPDATED WEBSITE!

Our website has been updated! [www.blackdiamondmuseum.org](http://www.blackdiamondmuseum.org) Check out the "Gallery" link to see photos of the museum and our displays. Click on a category to see photos in that group (i.e. Audio Video-Cemetery-Service Stations). Hover a mouse over a photo to see its description and click the magnifier glass to open the photo to a larger view.





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

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[www.twitter.com/BD\\_History](http://www.twitter.com/BD_History)

[www.blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com](http://www.blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com)

[www.blackdiamondmuseum.org](http://www.blackdiamondmuseum.org)

And make sure to tell your friends, too.

*Renewals due January 1st of each year.*



RedLine Mechanical next to  
Mama Passerilli's that's being  
remodeled

## **NEW BUSINESSES & REMODELS IN TOWN**

*Submitted by Keith Watson*



Provident Electric

Pizza Deli remodel



***When the time comes, make sure to stop  
in and welcome these new businesses to  
Black Diamond!***

