

◆ NEWSLETTER ◆

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ *Announcements* 2
- ◆ *President's Message* 3
- ◆ *Awards* 4
- ◆ *Easter Celebrations* 5
- ◆ *Society Business* 7
- ◆ *Feature Article cont.* 8
- ◆ *Calendar of Events* 10
- ◆ *Treasure Hunt* 11

<i>Memorials</i>	12
<i>Donations</i>	14
<i>Membership</i>	15

Banner Photo: *Depot in 1989, Carl Steiert on scaffolding*

RAVENSDALE OR NOT?

BY MICHAEL BRATHOVDE

I was surprised when I received my October 2020 issue of the BDHS newsletter and saw the banner's Ravensdale Parade photo.

Many of us, including my wife, Donna, and long-time BDHS contributor JoAnne Matsumura, had been researching this photo for several years and had conclusively determined that this was neither a historic photo of Ravensdale nor of a parade – contrary to the caption from MOHAI. But having not yet concluded our research efforts on this photo, we had not formally notified BDHS of our findings.

As background, our family has been in the Ravensdale area for 45 years now, and if we can make it another five years, we may be considered long-time residents. We had seen this photo in the past and were amazed at our sleepy Ravensdale's long-ago size. At one time, Ravensdale was an incorporated city (actually a "town of the fourth class"). It was the third largest city in the State (seemed implausible), or perhaps in King County (while also incorrect, Ravensdale was among the largest towns in King County in the early 1900s). But, despite a profound interest in the history of our adopted hometown, with a busy career and raising a family, we did not have time to dig into this, so we put it on our "retirement list."

After retiring, we were asked by the Ravensdale Parks Foundation in 2014 if we would be willing to research Ravensdale's history and draft a series of interpretive signs installed in Ravensdale Park the whole community could share in that history. Fifteen high-quality interpretive signs were installed and dedicated on November 16, 2015 – the 100th anniversary of the tragic Ravensdale Mine explosion that killed 31 miners and nearly led to Ravensdale becoming a ghost town.

Continued on page 8



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).

PRESIDENT Keith Watson
VICE PRESIDENT Shawn Oglesbee
SECRETARY Laurie Evans
TREASURER Sherrie Evans

DIRECTORS

Gomer Evans, Jr.
Rosemary Konoske-Bigelow
Greg Lichty
Don Mason
Elsie Parkin
Susie Thompson
David Watson
Sue Watson

MEMBERSHIP Laurie Evans
EDITOR Leih Mulvihill
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

CONTACT

Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum
P.O. Box 1
32627 Railroad Avenue
Black Diamond, WA 98010

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

WEB

www.blackdiamondmuseum.org
www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory
www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondMuseum
www.blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com
www.twitter.com/BDHistory

HOURS -

“Operating under COVID rules”

Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday 11 to 3 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oops!

In the last issue, Vol 44, Issue 3, the banner photo on the front page was purported to be; “*Parade in Ravensdale, WA. Image courtesy Museum of History & Industry, #shs16030, circa 1910*”. Thanks to Michael Brathovde, we now know the real story. He kindly offered to write our feature article explaining the controversy surrounding this picture. I hope you enjoy this fascinating read as much as I did!

Thank you Michael for the great catch and the great article!

Leih Mulvihill
Editor, BDHS Newsletter

The Old Depot By Jim Vernarelli

Sometimes when the day is ending and I happen to pass by, The old depot there on Main Street will just sort of catch my eye.

The memories that cross my mind I can close my eyes and see.

The luggage wagons all lined up and folks waiting patiently. There was a certain kind of feelin’ that you just can’t quite explain when you hear the whistle blowin’ just before you saw the train.

Then with big white light a-shinin’ searching all along the track, you could see the locomotive lookin’ mighty big and black.

There would be the mixed emotions as the train was drawing near.

Some were waiting for their loved ones, others leaving someone dear.

You would see the fond embraces and then each would go their way as the old train left the station to return some other day.

The old depot is still standing but it seems that there should be a light burning in the window and some folks lookin’ out to see the flickering of a headlight still brightening up the track and a steaming locomotive lookin’ mighty big and black.

From the Black Diamond Historical Society Newsletter February 1981.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

COVID certainly has been the highlight of 2020, and our operations, like others, have been altered. Since March of last year, we have only been open for two weekends. We are excited that we will be **opening again commencing Saturday, February 13**. I sure hope that you will be able to come and visit. We have COVID safety precautions in place. So come, bring your friends, neighbors, and family to see what has been going on.

While we were closed to visitors, our volunteer crew has been hard at work using safety precautions. They come every Thursday, and at times more days than that, to volunteer their time, for which we are overwhelmingly thankful. **We completed over 78 projects in 2020!** Here are a few highlights:

We made changes to the walls, ceilings, and the floors painted. We have new displays and the old ones improved. Mira Hoke created outstanding murals. The crew built and installed lighted display cabinets with plexiglass coverings; the company store updated with new plexiglass covered shelving. We added a meat cutting machine from the Lombardini family.

We removed walls around one of the furnaces to make additional room for displays. We have a blacksmith display, moonshine room, and Morganville Tavern with its 'silver dollar counter bar top.' We raised over \$15,000 for a new furnace. We installed a high-efficiency furnace and air conditioner, and related materials that will heat and keep cool the volunteers and visitors and keep the artifacts at a stable temperature and humidity. Thanks to all who contributed with a special thanks to Ten Trails for their start-up donation. Thanks also to Mainstream Air and McGann Electric, who completed the installation work.



Mine Eleven Mural

With the help of Lenny Folino, we added an Italian Heritage display to the main floor. Items on display are from the Sons of Italy in Black Diamond. The grounds and memorial garden continue to be maintained by Jane Falding and Mike Parkin. We receive a lot of comments on the beauty of that work.

Our wonderful volunteers are Bob Golden, Dennis Richardson, Ian Nitsche, Gomer Evans, Sherrie Evans, Laurie Evans, Greg Lichty, Dave Watson, Sue Watson, Laurie Evans, Susie Thompson, Jim Williams, Don Mason, Lynn Mason, Jim O'Rourke, Janie Edelman, Susie Thompson, Jim Williams, Leih Mulvihill, Judy Watson, Keith Watson, Rosemary Bigelow-

Konoske, Lenny Folino, Mira Hoke, Jane Falding, Dee Israel, Steve Israel, Ken Jensen, Shawn Oglesbee, Elsie Parkin, Mike Parkin, Alison Stern, Dorothy Botts, Howard Botts, Carol Eades,

A MESSAGE *from the* PRESIDENT



KEITH
WATSON

Robert Dobson, Senior Chief Jerry Makosky, Ron Heusser, and Virginia Sager. These folks and our members are helping keep history alive.

We received two sustained support grants from 4Culture of King County one for making the museum COVID safe and another for creating and printing new brochures. We also received a King

County Community Opportunity grant of \$2000. Thanks to King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn for his support. He visited the museum and said, "Undoubtedly represents our region better than any other historical museum in King County." We also appreciate

Continued on next page

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Cont. from previous page

very much all the support we receive from the City of Black Diamond.

So, 2020 is history, and your volunteers have accomplished a great deal. We use a goal system to get things done. Some of our goals for 2021 are already in progress. The entry foyer and auditorium have already received new paint. We are working on a visitor research center with computer access, a large flat screen for viewing maps, and a hands-on section for younger visitors. We plan to use the caboose interior walls to tell the story of the railroad system that served the coal mines and communities in Green River coal fields.

We have many goals that require people with computer skills and are looking for volunteers who could help. We need volunteers who could help us with grant proposals, marketing, organization, research, interior /exterior security, educational outreach, and docent skills. We also need people to volunteer as a docent to greet visitors – just 4 hours one Saturday or Sunday a month! Please contact Keith Watson at 360-886-0778 if you have an interest or questions.

*Keith Watson,
BDHS President*



BDHS RECEIVE MULTIPLE AWARDS

By Keith Watson

Governor John D Spellman was the first executive officer of King County and was responsible for creating the King County Historic Preservation and Landmarks Commission in 1980.

This year the Commission has chosen the Black Diamond Historical Society to receive the **John D Spellman Award** for Exemplary Achievement in Historic Preservation. **King County also named the Black Diamond Museum, the original train depot opened in 1886, as a City and King County Landmark.** The awards were presented on February 1 by King

County Council Member Regan Dunn.

We thank the Commission, Councilmember Reagan Dunn, the City of Black Diamond, Mayor Carol Benson and Council, the Black Diamond Historical Society members, and all the volunteers who have supported our efforts since 1976. I want to thank Sherrie Evans and Sarah Steen of King County for their hard work on the project and working with the Commission to make this possible.



L-R: Dorothy Botts, Sherrie Evans, Regan Dunn, Howard Botts, Gomer Evans, Mayor Carol Benson, Keith Watson, Tami Dedy, Brock Dedy and Don Mason.

Editors Note:

Check out the video on YouTube! Link Below.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbWQU4Uy6Mc&feature=share>

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

By Sherrie Evans

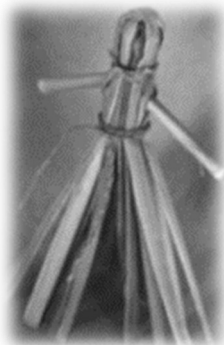
As we think of spring, fond memories of Easter often fill our heads. At least into the 1950s, a traditional Easter Egg Hunt was held in Black Diamond. Shown here are Debby Evans (Campbell) and Lilylynne Bremmeyer (Davis) partaking in that event as young girls.



The Welsh and Italians were the primary people that first settled in the town of Black Diamond. Within just a few years, many others joined, resulting in 30+ languages spoken here. Each of those cultures celebrates Easter in a bit different fashion, as noted below. How fun it must have been to see all these customs on display in Black Diamond back in the early days.

Wales – the Welsh

In Wales, people walk around bare feet to Dydd Gwener Groglyth (Good Friday) to avoid disturbing the earth. Another tradition is to "make Christ's bed," where children gathered reeds and then weaved them into a Christ figure. The children then placed the figure on a wooden cross before laying them in a nearby field. A procession was frequently held to the top of a mountain to greet the sunrise and perform three somersaults. During Easter, both adults and children paint eggs with assorted patterns and then hit them together. Whichever egg does not break goes on to do the same with another egg.



Italians

Easter is a huge holiday for Italians. On Good Friday, the Pope celebrates in Rome. A giant cross with burning torches lights the sky as parts of the cross are described in several languages. Then the Pope gives a blessing at the end. Every church in Italy holds a mass. With gifts inside, chocolate eggs are frequently exchanged, along with flowers for the "mamma" of the house. It is popular for young people to give engagement rings at Easter, hidden inside the egg. The Italians are famous for building the biggest chocolate egg in the world.



Poland – the Polish

Easter observances begin on Ash Wednesday with pussy willows called "bazie" or "kotki" that are cut and placed in water. On Palm Sunday, the twigs are used as "palms" to be blessed in the church since palms are not available in Poland. Some elderly persons say that swallowing one of the buds will ensure good health all year long. Decorating baskets and filling them with various foods are taken to the church to be blessed. Polish ceremonies, held in the churchyard, include the blessing of the fire.



According to the Polish folk craft experts, we divide Written Eggs into different categories. The eggs decorated with the use of treated wax are called "pisanki." Another technique involved gluing colored paper or shiny fabric on them. The eggs painted in one color are called "malowanki" or "kraszanki." If patterns are etched with a pointed instrument on top of the paint, the eggs are called "skrobanki" or "rysovanki."

Slovenia

Easter is called "velika noc" or "big night," and is

EASTER *cont. from page 5* a 3-day holiday. Foods to celebrate Easter include colored Easter eggs (usually red) to represent the blood of Christ. Smoked ham or meat represents the body of Christ. Potica (a traditional Slovenian dessert) symbolizes Christ's crown of thorns, and sausages symbolize the ropes used to tie Christ to the cross. Easter eggs are dyed naturally with onion skins and elaborate patterns.



Austria

Eating green food is a popular tradition on "Grun Donnerstag." Since this holiday has roots in Christianity and Austria is a very religious country, many go to church on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with their families. On Saturday, people usually take baskets filled with food for Easter Sunday to church. The priest will then bless the baskets. Beautiful markets full of Easter decorations or other hand-made knick-knacks appear in squares everywhere around Austria.

Many sell hand-painted Easter eggs to decorate Easter trees. It is a very popular activity for kids. Many adults also take their time to do it and create very intricate designs for their eggs. They take white eggs, punch a hole in the top and bottom with a pin, and then blow out the white and the yolk to only have the eggshell leftover. These are painted and decorated, adding a small ribbon to hang it on the Easter tree.



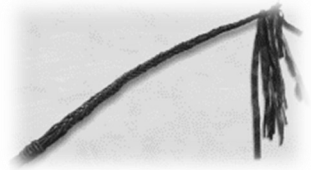
An Easter tree is what it sounds like. You usually take branches of pussy willows and hang decorative Easter eggs from them. Some also decorate trees in their garden or plants inside their home instead of using pussy willows.

On Easter Sunday, you usually eat the "Jause" (=snack or tea) made out of cured ham, boiled eggs, horseradish,

and Easter sausage. This is generally placed in a basket and taken to church on Saturday, where the priest will bless it.

Czech Republic

The Czech Republic has a rather unusual tradition on Easter Monday. Boys get willow branches, braid them together into whips and decorate them with ribbons to whip girls with - for luck and fertility. It is a centuries-old playful tradition. The word for this whip is "pomlázka," which has also become the name of the tradition itself. Easter is known as "Velikonocce" from an expression for "great night" – after the day in which Jesus Christ rose from the dead. The celebration was suppressed during Communist rule but has slowly returned. Here Easter Monday trumps Easter Sunday, where Monday is the national holiday.



Decorating eggs (*kraslice*) is one of Czech's best-known and widely practiced Easter traditions. Girls typically decorate the eggs to be hung in windows, put in baskets, or given to the boys who whip them on Easter Monday. Find elaborately decorated eggs for sale at the markets and shops throughout the Czech Republic. Proceed with caution if taking eggs home as souvenirs; however – they are very delicate so getting them home in one piece is a risk! Red is the most popular color because it symbolizes the energy of new life. Czechs still use red at Easter Time to represent health, happiness, and new life.

Yugoslavia

Flowers and willow branches substitute for actual palm leaves. They are woven into bouquets before being taken to mass and then scattered on the church floor and blessed by the priest. They are gathered up by the congregation and woven into decorations, and then hung around the home, on doors, or by the household icon.

On this day, children wear bells to announce the coming of Christ with their ringing. On Good Friday, customarily, eggs are dyed before Easter. In Bulgaria, the red egg holds particular importance as a symbol of the holiday, signifying the blood of Christ. As a result, the first egg to be

dyed should be red. A red egg is often kept throughout the year, possibly near the household icon, to protect the household until being replaced with a new red egg the following Easter.

Easter Sunday is when families attend church and gather for a meal. It is also when the game of egg-tapping is played between siblings or in more serious competitions. An egg is held by each player, who then taps their eggs against their opponent's. The player's egg that remains intact is the winner of the game.

Germany

On Easter Sunday, German families traditionally come together for a big Easter brunch. A variety of buns and spreads are served and painted boiled eggs are a must. In many families, children help painting the eggs and decorate them with patterns, such as bunnies or flowers. Germans are famous for their Easter Walks. The Easter Egg Hunt is a longstanding German Easter Sunday tradition. German children search for hard-boiled colored eggs, chocolate bunnies,

mini eggs, or nests filled with the latter. In some parts of Germany, children collect moss and flowers in the forest on Good Friday and build Easter nests in their gardens.

Many Germans prepare a "Hefezopf" (literally: yeast braid), a golden-brown braided yeast bread. Alternatively, they bake a big round pastry called "Osterkranz" (Easter wreath), often filled with nuts and dried fruits. Many people eat these tasty treats with butter or jam.



Editor's note: The idea for this article came from Board Member Susie Thompson. Please keep your ideas coming. BDHS wishes you a Happy Easter this year (April 4, 2021), however you like to celebrate it!



SOCIETY BUSINESS



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING APRIL 25, 2021 - CHANGES

Our next annual meeting of the entire membership is scheduled for April 25, 2021. However, due to COVID it will not be able to be held in our normal gathering at the museum. We do, however, need to take care of an important business item proposed by the Board of Directors.

Previously we have held two (2) full annual membership meetings, with the fall meeting used for elections. Due to the lack of attendance for the spring meeting, the Board has proposed a change in the By-Laws to hold one (1) annual meeting in October.

The intent is that meeting will be used for elections and Society business, but an activity will be associated with that event with the purpose of drawing in not only members but our greater

community. We will need your vote on this matter.

You can either send a note to us at PO Box 1, Black Diamond, WA 98010, email to museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org, or drop by the museum. Please let us know if you would vote Yes to support this recommendation or NO to not adopted the proposed change. If you have questions, please contact President Keith Watson.

Dee Israel is creating a collection of Labor Day buttons and we are in need of 1973, 1976, 1993 and 2005. If you have one, we would appreciate the donation.

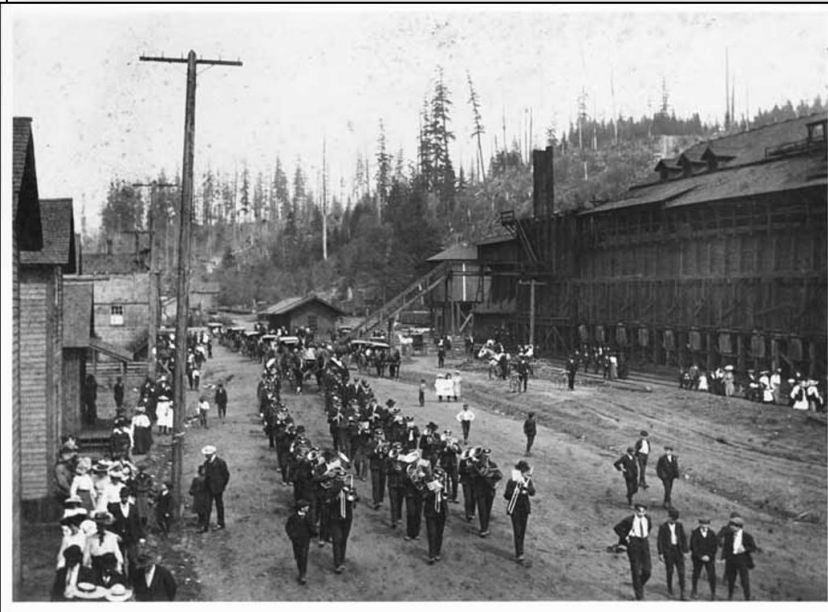
We have recently had a few instances where we learned that dear members have passed and we have not been notified. In these instances the newsletters did not get returned to us which is one of the avenues we rely on to learn of their passing. If you are receiving the newsletter as a family member of a deceased member,



RAVENSDALE OR NOT?

By Michael Brathovde

Continued from page 1



"Parade in Ravensdale, WA", circa 1910; Museum of History & Industry, University of Washington, #shs 16030.

Over the intervening five years, we've collected over 500 historic photos of Ravensdale from numerous sources across the State and beyond (including many pictures from BDHS), over 200 old maps, several thousand newspaper articles, and thousands of pages of documents relating to Ravensdale history. And we are working on compiling all this material into a Ravensdale Research Document, which, when completed, will be available for anyone to access if wishing to dig even deeper into this fascinating history.

The photo published in the October BDHS newsletter is available in several museum collections around the area. It has been widely published in many books and articles – including on the cover of one hardbound book (*Company Towns of the Pacific Northwest*). The *King County Survey of Historic Places*, published by the King County Department of Planning and Community Development, published the introductory page. Publications we have run across have labeled this photo as being of Ravensdale, and most indicate a date of circa 1910.

While MOHAI captions this as a parade, others label the photo specifically as an Emancipation Day parade; some label it as a funeral procession. One asserted that

it is a funeral procession for some of the 31 miners killed in the 1915 Ravensdale Mine explosion.

As we collected the photos and documents on Ravensdale history, *we became increasingly convinced that the Ravensdale Parade photo was not Ravensdale at all.* The buildings and telegraph/power poles on the image left did not line up with other pictures and town maps. The coal bunkers and processing plant on the photo right did not match. And while Ravensdale was a Northern Pacific company town, it was never a watering stop for the NP steam engines. Hence, the water tank at the photo center also indicated this was not Ravensdale. The photo in the October newsletter was cropped. In uncropped versions, the timber on the hill was logged. Other images of what would be the same hill if it were Ravensdale, which were more recent than the "circa 1910" date ascribed by MOHAI, showed mature timber still on the hill in Ravensdale.

Ravensdale.

Then we realized there were two different versions of



This enlargement from the second photo shows the single caisson in the funeral procession. Maple Valley Historical Society #P.09.59.01.



This enlargement shows the unique hats and ribbons/badges worn on the left chest by many of the men in the procession.

this photo – the one shown in the newsletter and another one took minutes later when the procession had advanced perhaps 100' further. In the second photo (also published in many different venues (though we've found no single source that has both images)), we could make out that there was a single horse-drawn caisson with a casket further back in the procession. The caisson had gas lamps very similar to those the Black Diamond caisson carried in 1912 and displayed in the museum. So this was not a parade, as MOHAI and many others proclaimed, but a funeral procession instead.

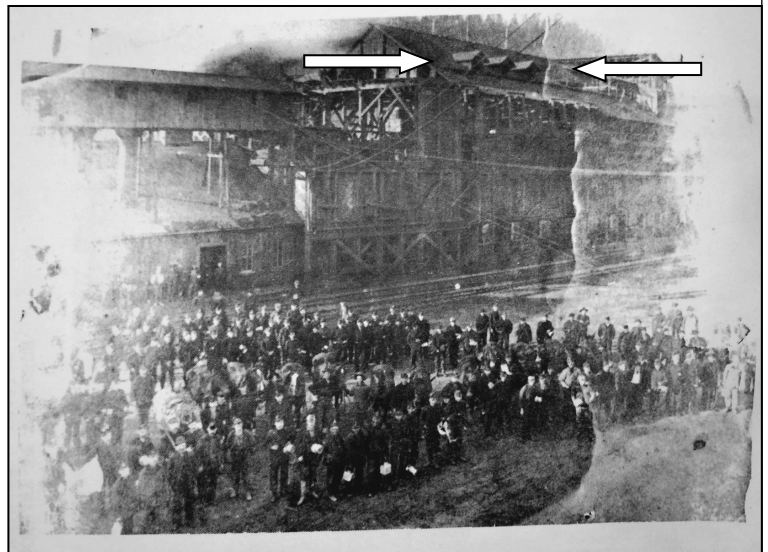
Many of the marchers and band members were wearing similar hats, ribbons, and badges - likely indicative of a lodge affiliation. Lodge membership around the turn of the century was very popular in the mining camps of the area. Further research uncovered these same hats and ribbons in a photo published in *Black Diamond, Mining the Memories*, with the caption "Austrian lodge at Black Diamond in 1905." And with her jeweler's loupe, JoAnne determined that the caisson in the funeral procession photo was draped with a flag, which further research indicated appears to be the Croatian flag

of the early 1900s. Croatia-Slavonia was one of the Austro-Hungarian Empire countries of Central Europe at the turn of the century. Many of the miners of western Washington had emigrated from these central European countries.

So it was likely a funeral for someone who had been a member of one of the Croatian lodges, which were very active in this area at the time, and from the turnout, possibly a fairly prestigious member. But we were still left with the nagging question of where this pair of historical photos were taken, as it was clear that it was not Ravensdale, despite what all sources had been reporting. We felt a key might be the three dormers on the roof of the coal processing plant, which we had never seen the likes of in any coal processing plant photo in the area.

Consulting with coal mining expert and long-time BDHS contributor Bill Kombol, he agreed this did not appear to be Ravensdale, but was unfamiliar with the bunkers/processing plant in the photo, but suggested perhaps it could be Wilkeson. However, the picture didn't seem to match any of the images we had come across of Wilkeson, and Donna Hogerhuis of the Wilkeson Historical Society did not recognize the building. So we put this on-the-back-burner to re-search later.

The breakthrough came in February 2018 when JoAnne, with my wife and I, visited Reid Peterson at the Enumclaw museum. Flipping through a museum



1907 STRIKE AT WILKESON COAL & COKE COMPANY, Courtesy of Lorraine Morgan – Tacoma. Source: Dateline Wilkeson, July 1984, by Nancy Irene Hall, page 49; from Enumclaw Museum.



CULTURE
KING COUNTY LODGING TAX

2021 Calendar of Events



Black Diamond Historical Society/Museum

Supported by 4Culture, the City of Black Diamond and donations BDHS is a 501(c)(3)
IRS #51-0170304 Nonprofit Corporation

Keeping History Alive in the Black Diamond Museum and Coal Miners Honor Garden ♦
Location: 32627 Railroad Ave (PO Box 1, Black Diamond, WA 98010)
Phone: 360-886-2142 email: museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org

**Subject to Covid-19 guidelines, events could be postponed or cancelled.*

Date (s)	Event	Location/Time
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 25	General Membership Meeting	Museum @ 1:00 pm
June 2	*Black Diamond All School Reunion	@ Black Diamond Eagles 11:00 am - 3 pm
June 5	*Welsh Heritage Day	@ Museum 1:00 pm
July 10	*Miner's Day	Railroad Ave 9 am – 4 pm
September 4-6	*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 18	*"Pasta Palooza" - fundraiser for Hometown Christmas	@ Eagles 4:00 to 9:00 pm
October 16-17	*Model Train Show	Ravensdale-Gracie Hansen Building
October 24	General Membership Meeting	Museum @ 1:00 pm
December 3	*Black Diamond Community Center Tree Lighting with Santa	BD Community Center 5 pm
December 4	*Enumclaw Christmas Parade	Downtown Enumclaw
December 11	*Hometown Christmas	Railroad Ave (Bakery, Smoke House, Antique Store, Museum, Eagles) 10 am- 3 pm
December 19 - January 4	Museum Closed for Holidays (*reopen on January 5)	Museum

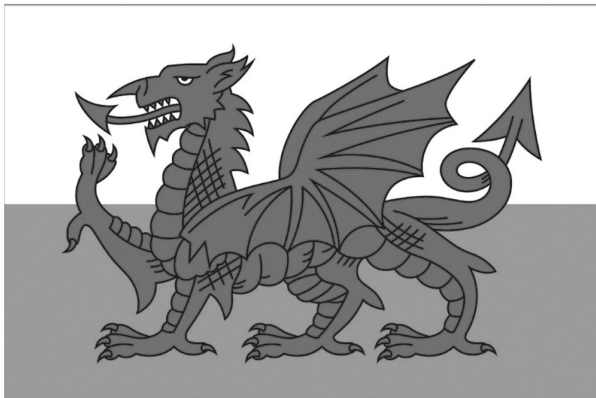


BART MCNUTLY

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.



Obituaries



Joseph Zumek
December 1924-January 2021

Joseph Zumek, age 96, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 20th Joe, as he was known, was born in December of 1924 and over the course of his

life he would work as a coal miner, copper miner, logging truck driver, volunteer firefighter, and grocer.

Joe grew up in Black Diamond, Washington and spent much of his childhood delivering papers around town. At age fourteen he began working in the local coal mines as did many young men of that town. In 1943 at the age of 18, Joe was drafted into the Army and sent off to Italy to fight in the war. Serving as an infantry man in the 10th Mountain Division was one of his proudest achievements.

Following the war, he and his brothers purchased the company store. He would work as a grocer alongside his family until his retirement. Joe was well known in Black Diamond, not just as an owner of the town grocery store but also as a volunteer fire fighter for many years along with his support and involvement in Black Diamond's Historical Society.

Joe was well known for having a charming personality and infectious smile. He was generous and kind to his last day. Joe was a devoted father to two boys, Kelly and Lou, and a loving husband to his wife of 67 years, Eileen.

In addition to his wife and boys, he is survived by their spouses Jennifer and Nancy, respectively, his grandchildren Jesse & Ryan along with many nieces, nephews, and loving friends.

In light of Covid, the family has decided to delay his memorial so that all family and friends can attend. Eventually, he will be put to rest at Tahoma National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Joseph's name to the Enumclaw branch of the VFW, Black Diamond's Historical Society, or a charity of choice.



The Zumek brothers—Tom, Joe, and Frank— operated the old company store from the late 1940s until 1963.

Photo was originally published in an unknown newspaper, June 30, 1953. Republished in the Black Diamond History Wordpress.com November 25, 2011.

<https://blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com/2011/11/25/three-zumek-brothers-who-own-and-operate-black-diamonds-modern-grocery-and-market/>

JOE ZUMEK “MR. NICE GUY”

By Keith Watson

Joseph Zumek, age 96, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2021. To say he will be missed is a huge understatement. He grew up in Black Diamond and served this community well. Joe was a charter member of our Society and also served as a Board member. He was a regular member of the “Thursday Work Crew” and the projects he contributed to are numerous. He really enjoyed stopping by and chatting with us too and we enjoyed it just as much.

He was a 1943 graduate from the Black Diamond High School but never received his diploma because he was drafted into the U.S. Army to serve in World War II at the age of 18. He was proud to serve as an infantry man in the 10th Mountain Division fighting in Italy.

After the war he and his brothers purchased the company store in Black Diamond. He would work as a grocer alongside his family until he retired. He loved Black Diamond and served as a volunteer fire fighter for many years.

Joe was always sorry he missed graduation from high school and with some help from the museum, by Board members Dave Watson, Sherrie Evans and Enumclaw School District Superintendent Mike Nelson, Joe was presented his diploma in 2019. We will miss his great smile and keen interest in the Black Diamond Historical Society. Joe was another Black Diamond nice guy; a treasure!



L-R ESD Superintendent, Mike Nelson, Joe Zumek, & Eileen Zumek.



L-R front—ESD Superintendent, Mike Nelson, Joe Zumek, & Eileen Zumek. Family in the back row.



Joe, proud as punch!

DONATIONS

We wish to thank our donors for their generous donations!

By Laurie Evans, Secretary

MEMORIAL DONATIONS \$1,275

Received for:

**Marie Evans
Craig Goodwin
Joe Zumek
Byron Parkinson
LaValle (Richardson) Marshall
Mike Chilcott**

**NEWSLETTER \$60
FIRETRUCK \$50
GENERAL \$1,240
HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS
MEMORIALS \$1,275
MINERS DAY
SECURITY SYSTEM
WELSH HERITAGE DAY**

For the period September 1, 2020, through January 31, 2021, we received the following in donations:

Donations are always welcome for the above special funds.

Thank you to our generous donors!!

Thank You



and



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.

580

*Number of guests for
the period January
1, 2020 to December
30, 2020*

2020

Be Our Guest

by Laurie Evans

We were fortunate to be open for two days under a temporary lift of the Governor's Covid guidelines. During those two days, we had 65 visitors! Despite the closure due to the pandemic, we had a total of 580 visitors in 2021 (336 adults and 244 children).



MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL FORM (Renewals due January 1 of each year)



Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Day Phone _____

Eve Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Gift? If so, who is it to/from? _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Annual Membership Fees

Individual	\$ 20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$ 30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lifetime – Individual	\$200.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lifetime – Family	\$300.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

~~Donations~~

Newsletter Fund \$ _____

Other _____ \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

New

Renewal

Cash

Check

(# _____)

Make checks payable to:
BDHS

Mailing address:
Black Diamond Historical
Society
P.O. Box 1
Black Diamond, WA 98010

BDHS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (TIN 51-0170304)

(For museum use only) Referred by _____ Date _____ Posted by _____ Date _____ rev.

For individuals only. Business membership forms can be found on our website or by contacting the museum.



NEW MEMBERS

By Laurie Evans, Membership Chairman



The Black Diamond Historical Society now has 310 members. We are pleased to announce that during the period September 1, 2020, through January 31, 2021, we have acquired the following new members:

Individual:

Cari Enticknap
Heather Weeks
Eric Williams
Jim Williams

Family:

Ken & Cindy Smith
Laura Woito & Lily/Jonny



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

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All annual memberships expire each year on December 31. We officially notify members of this expiration in the October newsletter, followed by email or postcard notification. As of January 31, 2021, we have several (60+) renewals that are outstanding. This newsletter will be the last newsletter these expired memberships will receive; we know you do not want to miss the great information we share so please ensure you get your payment sent in.

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL!!

In our on-going effort to improve our communication with our members, we are looking to ensure we have current email addresses for all of our members that have one. If you are not confident we have your current email, please send an email to museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org so we can ensure we have it in our system. Please also note to reference your name to make sure we know who you are! Thank you.



Black Diamond Historical Society
PO BOX 1
Black Diamond, WA 98010

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

BLACK DIAMOND,
Washington
PERMIT No. 17



Do you like Black Diamond history?

Come join the fun on Facebook, Twitter, our blog and our website!

www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondMuseum

www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory

www.twitter.com/BD_History

www.blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com

www.blackdiamondmuseum.org

And make sure to tell your friends, too.

Renewals due January 1st of each year.

RAVENSDALE

Continued from Page 9

copy of *Dateline Wilkeson* by Nancy Irene Hall, we came across a heavily-damaged photo captioned "1907 strike at Wilkeson Coal & Coke Company".

Behind the assembled striking miners was the coal bunkers/processing plant with the same dormers that matched our funeral procession photos. Under high magnification, a tedious comparison of the two images confirmed conclusively that the two photos were of the same building! The 1907 *Dateline Wilkeson* photo predated the funeral procession photo. The construction that was in process in the 1907 photo was completed at the time of the funeral procession photos.

So we have concluded that our pair of photos was of a funeral procession, likely for a relatively prestigious Croatian Lodge member, taken in Wilkeson, probably sometime in the 1908 – 1912 period.

Over the past year, our research efforts focused on determining whose funeral service this may have been.

Beverly Prkacin Read (former Curator of Croatia Fest at Seattle Center 2004-2012) provided us with the membership rolls for the very active Croatian Lodge

of Wilkeson over this period. So the name of the deceased is likely among this lodge membership roll. From the funeral procession photos' attire, the funeral was possibly in the April – September period. Donna Brathovde and JoAnne have scoured the newspapers of this period and death and cemetery records for Wilkeson and surrounding areas and genealogy records, trying to identify whose funeral service this was. Unfortunately, all of *The Wilkeson Review* and the *Wilkeson Coal Digger* newspapers have been lost to history.

Still, the Buckley Banner did publish some news articles from Wilkeson over this period, as did the Tacoma Daily News and The Tacoma Times on occasion. But to date, we have not been able to come up with anyone who would seem to fit the deceased's likely profile. So this remains a mystery that will hopefully be unraveled by some future history researchers.

Should anyone have any additional information regarding these photos or any other historical information relating to Ravensdale's history, please contact Michael Brathovde, mabrathovde@gmail.com, (206) 793-2915.

