



◆ NEWSLETTER ◆

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A TRAILBLAZER FOR MILITARY WOMEN

– Compiled by Llynda Flothe Peters



Mary Lou Flothe

An overseas veteran of WWII, a trailblazer for women in the military, and a Southern transplant.

When Mary Lou arrived in Black Diamond as a newlywed in 1946, she left behind her friends, parents, and siblings in East Texas. In reality, she'd left them several years earlier in 1944. It was her patriotic and adventuresome spirit that led her to enlist, along with more than 150,000 others, in the Women's Army Corps.

After high school, she completed the clerical program at Chenier Business College near Houston and soon found a bookkeeping position at Montgomery Ward supervising a staff of three clerks.

(Mary Lou's accounts are italicized.)

It had been twenty months since the bombing of Pearl Harbor, making it a difficult time to find the employees we needed. One night when I was in the file room, a department manager came by and asked, "What are you doing back there?" I was working overtime. He continued, "If I was your age, I'd join the service." I protested, "But I'm a girl!" He answered that I'd be doing my country a service.

The next day, I decided to go to the post office to see what registration entailed. After filling out a form and putting it in the mail, I thought the response would take a while. Two days later, when I was asked to come in for a health exam, I thought I'd better say something to my parents.

Above: Home and King County Housing Authority office. Mary Lou (sitting) with visiting nieces and mother.

Continued on page 4



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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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

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HOURS -

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



DID YOU KNOW?

From the Pacific Coast Bulletin, Volume X June 1, 1930 BLACK DIAMOND SCHOOL NOTES

A few days ago there was an election of student body officers and the following is the result:

President:	Philip Sternig
Vice-President:	Frank Tratnick
Secretary	John Richter
Treasurer	Jane Davies
Sergeant-at-Arms	Tyner Thomas
YeU Leader	Frank Brennan



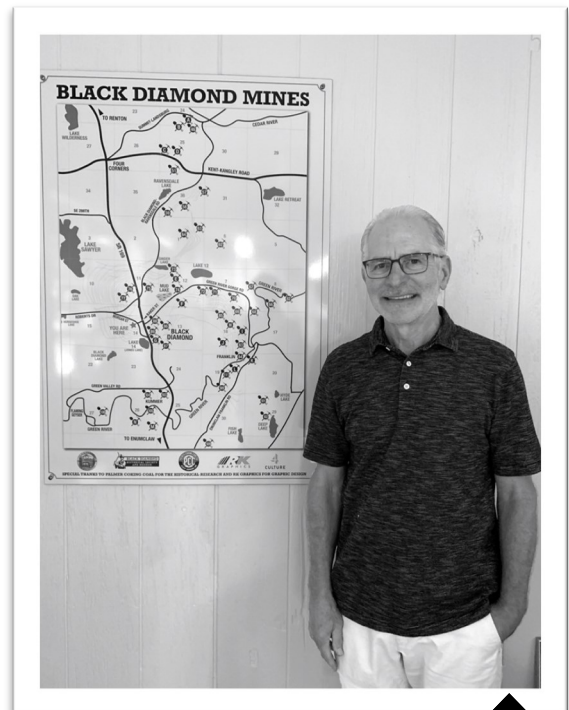
HATS OFF TO BILL!

By Sherrie Evans

For over a year we have been researching information to create a map of the mines in and around Black Diamond. The project is finally complete and we have a beautiful new map sign in the new "research" area of the museum.

Our most grateful thanks go to Bill Kombol for the hours and hours he spent assisting us with the research and working with RK Graphics of Enumclaw to get the information correct. Bryson of RK did a masterful job completing the design work.

Pictured here is Bill standing next to the new map, which is accompanied by a legend describing the map and the mine detail. Thanks also to Palmer Coking Coal for their monetary contribution for printing the sign. We hope all of you will stop by and see this beautiful work and important information.



DUES ARE DUE BY 12/31

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

A MESSAGE

from the
PRESIDENT



KEITH
WATSON

congratulations to Sherrie! Last year Sherrie was named Citizen of the Year 2021 by the Labor Day committee. This year she led the Labor Day parade as the Grand Marshall.

WE NEED YOUR VOTE

Members of the Black Diamond Historical Society are entitled to vote for Board Members every three years. Please notice the voting ballot in this issue of the newsletter and vote by mail or vote in person at the General Membership Meeting on Sunday, October 23, 2022, held in the Museum at 1:00 p.m. There will be surprise entertainment as well as treats to eat for your pleasure.

BORED AND LOOKING FOR FUN?

We ask for your time for as little as 4 hours a month to come and join our other greeters on Saturday or Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Our volunteers range in age from 8 - 90+, so you would fit like a glove with this group. Do we have fun meeting people from all over the world - YEP! We also have needs for handy people on Thursday's (our volunteer work days) taking care of the museum's collections, building, gardening, and groundskeeping. Just give us a call at 360-886-2142 or send us an email at museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org. We would love to have you!

FANTASTIC VOLUNTEER

The museum's Treasurer is a volunteer with many talents. She keeps the books, chairs the Design Committee, works well with all of the other fantastic volunteers as an overseer, is full of ideas that work, and is like a breath of fresh air to be around. She is the daughter of one of my favorite people, Gomer Evans. Of course, her name is Sherrie Evans and I am thrilled to name her to the new position as Manager of the Museum. Con-

BLACK DIAMOND FIRE TRUCK SHOWS OFF

You may know how the Black Diamond Historical Society's fire truck was saved by our volunteers from the scrap yard and restored to mint running condition. This fire truck served Black Diamond and King County for many years in the late 40's and 50's. You can read the extended story about it on the Black Diamond Historical Society (www.blackdiamondmuseum.org). Our newsletters are available by clicking "Events" in the top menu and then scrolling under the calendar. Just click and read.

Now instead of putting out fires it is driven by Joe or Mike Androsko in parade events in Maple Valley, Enumclaw (4th of July and Christmas parades), Black Diamond Labor Day parade, Black Diamond Community Center's Santa arrival, and the Hometown Christmas on Railroad Avenue and other special community events. Below is the fire truck in the Enumclaw 4th July parade and the Black Diamond Labor Day parade.



CABOOSE CHANGE

Way back in the 1980's we received a caboose which arrived with a rusted yellow paint job. At that time it was decided to paint it the same as the depot which is barn red with white trim. A lot of work was done in restoration of the caboose and later on it was reskinned with new wood by Brian Mead and Gomer Evans. The ongoing dis-

MARY LOU *from front page*

Mom was concerned, but I told her not to worry and that they might not even take me. My brothers were already serving overseas. My older brother was in the infantry near Italy and my younger brother would arrive in France soon after D-Day.

On August 6, 1943, I entered Houston's recruiting station. From there, it was on to boot camp, Third WAAC Training Center, at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

After indoctrination, my first assignment was in the office of the staff sergeant in Charleston, South Carolina. Charleston served as the Port of Embarkation and troops were constantly moving in and out. Hospital ships were continuously bringing in the wounded.

My next assignment dealing with commodities was more interesting, but the work was still not very fulfilling. I felt like anyone could accomplish what I was doing. I'd thought about applying for overseas duty, so when the army finally allowed women to go, I put my name in. I'd seen the guys coming off the hospital ships and, with my brothers over there fighting, it seemed like the right thing to do.

Overseas assignments were highly coveted, even though the vast majority consisted of the clerical and communications jobs at which women were believed to be most efficient. Only the most highly qualified women received overseas assignments. Some women turned down the chance to attend Officer Candidate School in favor of an overseas assignment. Mary Lou was one of 5,500 sent to the Southwest Pacific Area. In Brisbane, Australia she was assigned to foreign service at the Headquarters of the Far East Air Force WAC Detachment under the command of General George C. Kenney. As classified office personnel at



Archer Field, her duties involved typing radio and teletype messages for Air Intelligence.

After Brisbane, my unit was transferred to Hollandia, New Guinea. It was a jungle, the most primitive and war-like of my overseas locations.

WACs in the SWPA had a highly restricted lifestyle. Fearing incidents between the women and a large number of male troops in the area, some of whom had not seen an American woman for eighteen months, the theater headquarters directed that WACs (as well as Army nurses) be locked within barbed-wire compounds at all times, except when escorted by armed guards to work or to some approved recreation.

We slept four girls in a tent, which was small. At night we'd put our shoes on planks under our cots to help keep them dry. In the morning, we'd shake them vigorously to rid them of bugs.

You could only leave the fenced and guarded area in groups of four and wheels were a necessity. Soon after arriving, my tent mate, Neta, needed a fourth so she and her boyfriend Dan, a P-38 pilot, could leave the base and explore the area. Neta coaxed, "Oh, Mary Lou, there's the cutest guy and he has a jeep. If you come, you can go with Dan and me."

I wasn't really in the mood, but to be nice I went with Neta to the Rec Hall where the guys were waiting.

There, the nice-looking guy with the jeep took me by the arm and said, "Let's go."

His name was Len Flothe, a G.I. from Enumclaw, Washington.

From Hollandia, her unit traveled further north to the island of Leyte. There on Christmas Eve, groups of the women elected to spend their evening caroling at the makeshift hospital wards. Front-line casualties poured in constantly day and night. They sang for tired nurses who stood with tears in their eyes and bloody bandages in their hands. The strains of "Silent Night" echoed into a night blacked out because of recurring air raid alerts.

In a letter home, dated December 29, 1944, Mary Lou wrote optimistically:

Our tents have no floors, the office has no floors. This is the rainy season, and the sun has shown twice since we've been here which will soon be a week. Mud is so deep it's not funny, in other words living conditions are rough. We're living in a beautiful coconut plantation, and the ocean is practically next door. So, you see, nothing is all bad. It

cussion has been how the existing cabooselooked like a building, so this summer it was repainted to match the locomotive (which is fire engine red and glossy black). Thanks to Lacy, Aubrey, and Liam Frye, Ian Nitsche, and Dennis Richardson it now looks like a Caboose.



FUN EVENTS

Whew, what a year! We hosted the first annual Italian Heritage Day in cooperation with the Sons of Italy as well as the annual Welsh Heritage Day in cooperation with the Puget Sound Welsh Association. We had the Black Diamond Elemen-

tary students and staff here for their annual tour of the museum, and up to Franklin. Then it was time for the school reunion on June 1st. Next up was Miner's Day where we pay tribute to the businesses of Black Diamond and to our history and we just finished with Black Diamond's historic annual 3-day Labor Day festivities.

On December 10, 2022, Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at the museum and kick off the Hometown Christmas event (to be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.). There will be several activities, treats, and a program from the King County Library.

None of this happens without our incredible volunteers and support from our community and businesses. We thank each and every one of you for making these events happen for our community to enjoy and for continuing to preserve our history.



Keith Watson,
President BDHS



MARY LOU from previous page

will be nice when we get settled.

On March 2, 1945, she wrote:
I spent at least five hours at the hospital this afternoon. I tell you, Mother, it does my heart good to be able to help those boys and to do little things to make them happy. I get more satisfaction from visiting the hospital and helping there on my own time than I do at my job at the office.

One of the fellows touched my heart; he was so sick and perspiring so, that a drop of sweat stood on each pore of his skin. I got a damp cloth and wiped his face. His dinner came and I had to feed him with a spoon; the sweat kept popping out, so I stayed a while longer. When I said I'd leave so maybe he could get some sleep, he said, "Please don't leave, just stay three more minutes then I'll go to sleep." He asked my age and said his wife was 23, too. He said, "She'll just die when she hears about me." I said, "Oh, no, she will take it like a sport." I told him I would come back in a day or two and maybe he'd feel better, and we'd write

her. He said, "Will you come back? That will be wonderful." There are so many boys like that. I wrote letters for five different ones today.

On April 3, 1945, Mary Lou received a response from one soldier's wife from Narrows, Virginia:

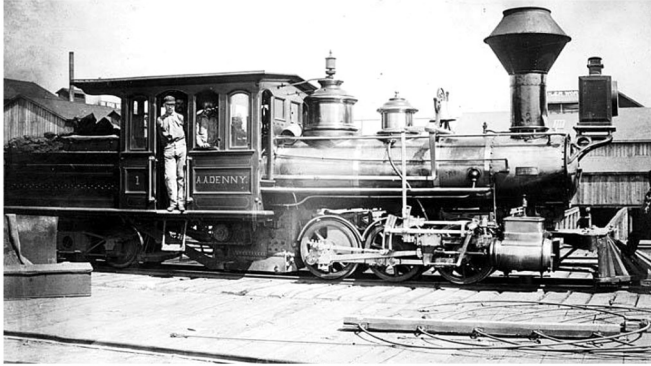
"Dear Mary Lou,
I want to thank you very much for writing to me about my husband. I have been awful worried about him for I've never received any word about him except when you would write. Indeed, I was very glad to hear from you. I sure will be happy if he can only come home to see us all. The children are all well and thinking a lot about their daddy. I want to thank you again for being so kind. So, lots of good luck and best wishes.
Sincerely, Mrs. Virginia Mullins"

After corresponding and meeting again in Manila, Philippine islands, Len and Mary Lou became engaged. In a letter, sent in November 1945, he wrote: "Well, darling, do you think we should wait five years and get married, or should we start in this new world with a pioneering spirit? I don't have a fear of any part of our future, there are thousands and thousands just

MIKE SHORT IN 1888 BLACK DIAMOND

By Keith Watson

Chapter 3 Mike Short / Monday, September 10, 1888, on train to Black Diamond.
(A fictional account based on historical facts)



Mike Short here, riding in the cab of the locomotive, AA Denny of the Columbia and Puget Sound Railroad. The ride from Seattle to Black Diamond took around an hour to arrive, crossing the Cedar River four times and traveling around 15 to 20 miles an hour with the most beautiful forests on both sides of the tracks. We crossed the river for the last time and traveled alongside a lake named Wilderness. There were no people anywhere that a person could see.

There was a gradual rise in elevation as we got closer to Black Diamond and we were still surrounded by tall trees with very little room for the train. The evergreen fir trees were of all sizes from 6 to 36 inches round.

Coming into Black Diamond, I saw a very large wooden water tank, and next to it was a good size building with two floors. I was told later that the overnight crew of the train slept there and kept the locomotive fired up. Also, there was a rail switch to the left that allowed a coal train to go up to the mine with supplies and timbers for bratticing in the mine works.

Bratticing created a partition or shaft lining in a coal mine.

The train went past the water tank and the building onto the train depot where there was a large group of people waiting. The train depot station was built of finished lumber with a wood platform for people to use. I asked why there was a large group of people to meet the train and was told they were waiting for newspapers, mail, payroll, and to see new people who might get off the train.

I thanked the engineer and fireman who let me work in the cab for a free ride to Black Diamond and then began to look around at my hopeful new hometown.

The terrain was very hilly with tracks going south to another mining town called Franklin. The structures were a mixed sort—from frame tents to log buildings to finished wood buildings. There was a lumber store next to the depot but no lumber mill in sight. The company store is next to the lumber store.

Lots of structure building was happening.

I asked the depot station master where the mine office was located and was told to walk up the road that parallels the tracks and continues up the hill and I will find the mine and the office. It was a gentle increase in height as I walked maybe a half mile to a mostly level spot. There were tree stumps all over.

I talked to one of the miners who gave me the following information about the mine. It is called Mine 14 since it is located in section 14 on the section map. It was opened in 1880 when they dug a slope down 100 feet discovering a 3-foot coal seam then a 4-foot slate section and then another 6-foot seam of coal. The quality of the coal was very good and it produces a lot of heat with low ash when it burns which is excellent. The upper works of the mine featured coal car tracks that allow coal to be transported to the coal bunkers that meet the street (Railroad Avenue) where the depot and store are located. Not sure where the coal is sorted but it goes to the bunkers for handling and then by gravity is loaded into train coal cars headed to Seattle wharves for shipment by steamships to populated areas. I was directed to the mine office and was asked "What type of skills do you have?" I sheepishly answered shoveling coal into the burner of a train locomotive. "Where do you live?" he asked next. I replied I was looking for a place to stay. The next question was "Are you from Wales, England, or Scotland?" I told him I'm from Plymouth, England, and looking for employment. He then said, "We might have a place for you on the sorting table but first we need

to find you a place to live?" And finally: "Are you married?" to which I replied: Not yet! Of course, I had no idea what was to come next. Mrs. Davis had a room for rent and offered room and board; home-cooked meals to eat, rest, bath, and repair. The meals were to be with her family and she allowed me to rest and relax in her living room or yard, she offered a warm bath in the wash house out back, and she offered to launder and mend my clothes, all of this for \$5 a month. I had no idea what wages I would be earning but agreed to Mrs. Davis' offer; being very grateful that I have a home. I then learned wages for 10-hour days were around \$1.10 per day depending on your job position.

A comical thing is Mrs. Davies is Welsh and I'm from England, people not known to have a history of having smooth relationships, but I think we will be fine.

Finding my way around town is interesting, to say the least with no street or road signs or house numbers. Railroad Avenue where the depot is located is the main street where everybody congregates. There is a street that goes from the depot at an angle up the hill to Mine 14. Just east of Railroad Avenue and up a steep hill, there is another street that has railroad tracks on it going to the mine. There are various shacks on both sides of that street that house the workers. I will be liv-

ing on that street on its east side. Most of the shacks have fences around them to protect their gardens from roaming cows who have cowbells around their necks. The cows have the free roam of the town and eat plentiful grasses. The bell on each cow has a different sound so the cow owners can locate them and bring them home for milking. Most locomotives have "V" shaped cow catchers attached to their fronts in case a cow ventures in front of them and gets hit; it's designed to roll the cow off to one side. This is designed to save the cow and prevent derailing the train.

The town of Black Diamond, Territory of Washington, is much different than what I was used to being from Plymouth, England, a city over 400 years old with a lot of people with improvements like cobblestone streets and walkways, buildings of stone, streetlamps, and the horse pulled trolleys.

The police in Plymouth were known as Bobbies and kept the peace. There doesn't seem to be any police in Black Diamond. Transportation is by foot. At night when people go to bed, there is no light and if the moon is not showing it is coal black.

To be continued in the next newsletter.



MARY LOU from page 5

like you and me."



Engagement photo. Manila, 1945.

Greenwater. She recalled:

On January 15, 1946, they were married in Beaumont, Texas. They then left for Black Diamond, Washington, settling into a duplex within the King County Housing Project. For her, it was another new adventure in unfamiliar surroundings, but this time it was to be her home. Though her East Texas accent was distinct among the others not native to the area, she set out to fit in as a good neighbor. Len first worked cutting lagging for the coal mine in Bayne, then began logging east of

I thought Washington was beautiful. I was amazed by all the crooked roads, being accustomed to the flat and straight Texas highways. The logging industry was like storybook stuff. We didn't have trees like that in Texas either. Len was a real lumberjack and would bring me bouquets of wildflowers from the woods.

At Green River Gorge Home and housing authority office. Mary Lou (sitting) with visiting nieces and mother.

As a skilled Veteran, KC Housing Authority offered Mary Lou the job of the property manager. She accepted at \$50 a month. It provided a larger, two-bedroom unit that allowed, to Len's delight, space for a dog. In 1954, they purchased a home at 25701 Lawson St. with ample space for their growing family.

While rearing four children, Mary Lou was active in their education serving as a room mother and through PTA. Concerned by the lack of activities for Black

FUN FOR 2022

ITALIAN HERITAGE DAY

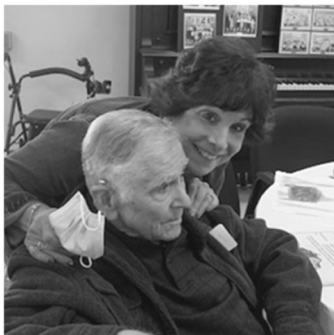
Our first annual Italian Heritage Day on May 18th. Thank you to the Black Diamond Sons of Italy!



Left to Right: Andrew Benedetti Jr. with grandson Blake Benedetti, Robert Benedetti, Lisa Guerrini Shelton, Andrea Iles Foster (daughter of Barbara Benedetti Newton), Barbara Benedetti Newton, Steven Malesis (son of Patricia Benedetti Martin), LeAnn Anderson (daughter of Bettina Benedetti Waddle) Benedetti Linster (great-grandson of Bettina Benedetti Waddle), Patricia Benedetti Martin and Bettina Benedetti Waddle.

SCHOOL REUNION

On June 1 anyone that attended school in Black Diamond was welcomed to the Community Center. We had a tremendous turnout, including our 101-year old Barney Carnino. Thanks to Cheryl Hanson and the BD Community Center staff for their assistance and to EJ Catering for a wonderful lunch. Thanks also to our businesses and people who provided baskets for our raffle. Be there next year – always the 1st Wednesday in June.



WELSH HERITAGE DAY

On June 4th we held our annual Welsh Heritage Day, a tribute to the Welsh who were among the first to settle here in Black Diamond and were often the engineers and mine bosses. Our program as hosted by the Puget Sound Welsh Association. Their President, Mary Lynne Evans provided a very interesting program featuring the story of the Welsh holiday tradition, Mari Lywd.



Puget Sound Welsh Association

The tradition entails the use of an eponymous hobby horse which is made from a horse's skull mounted on a pole and carried by an individual hidden under a sack-cloth. The men would carry the Mari Lwyd to local houses, where they would request entry through song. The householders would be expected to deny them entry, again through song, and the two sides would continue their responses to one another in this manner. If the householders eventually relented, the team would be permitted entry and given food and drink.



MINERS DAY

Miners Day was a complete success. Railroad Avenue was closed from the museum to the bakery which left room for vendors, live music, food trucks, face painting, and the street actors. This year the street actors were keystone cops trying to apprehend one bad guy and protect one damsel in distress. The weather cooperated for a day of fun for families and singles alike.



MARY LOU cont. from page 7

Diamond's young girls, she initiated and led a Blue Bird group allowing for growth opportunities through local field trips, community service, and candy sales. A contributing member of Black Diamond Presbyterian Church, she taught Sunday and Vacation Bible School. She championed the underdog, receiving a letter of commendation from President Jimmy Carter for her efforts through the local Baptist church. She treated many of the elderly women as she would have her mother in Texas. She provided assistance and friendship through meals, trips to the doctor, and comfort knowing her southern hospitality would be there when needed. During the week, while Len managed the Covington sub-station for Bonneville Power, she managed the daily in-home office of their Farmers Insurance agency, helping it grow over 40 years. When Len retired, he was the longest-serving Farmer's agent in Washington state.



1956 - Black Diamond's first Blue Bird Group (young Camp Fire Girls): Back row (l-r) Marie Theilken, assistant leader, Yvonne Tyler, Mary Lou Flothe, Leader. Second

row: Linda Tyler, Donna Theilken, Rosalie Draghi,

Wanda Walker, Mary Jo Erath, unknown. Front row: Tonnie Hawk, Llynda Flothe, and Marilyn Flothe.

In 1998, on her 60th high school reunion, Mary Lou sent her regrets: *A big "Hello" to all of you. I would love to be there. We still live in Black Diamond, Washington. We've seen it grow from a small town where we knew everyone to too many people, houses, and cars. The Lord has been good to our family these past years. We have four educated offspring. Also, four grandchildren, all living and working within a hundred miles of our home. Best wishes to everyone.*

Their house on Lawson Hill was easy to spot: a small insurance sign by the gate, flowers lining the driveway, and a flag on the front porch that flew on those important days of remembrance.



At Green River Gorge

Mary Lou and Len passed in 2007 and 2006, respectively. Their interments took place at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent with full military honors (her Air Force, his was Army).

Personal accounts and correspondence – Pvt. Mary Lou Brown (Flothe); The Women's Army Corps: A Commemoration of World War II Service - Judith A. Bellafaire; Far East Air Force – Mary Lee Hayman

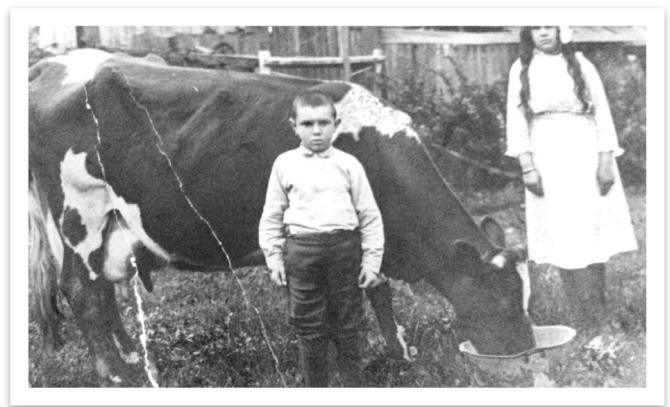


A LITTLE BIT OF DRAGHI HISTORY

By Louis Draghi Jr.

Here is a picture of my father and my aunt (Black Mary) the bootlegger depicted in the newspaper during prohibition years. My dad looks about 8 or 10 years old. I would guess this picture dates about 1917 or 1918. this picture was taken on our original property in Black Diamond. I don't know how old the cow is. HA!

We always had cows to milk which provided cheese and a milk route to neighbor's. Our 1/4 acre garden provided quality produce along with many types of fruits and vegetables. My mother worked many hours canning and storing food. We always had work to do: milking, caring and cleaning for the animals, supplying wood and coal, house cleaning, weeding the garden, planting the garden, and other duties. I don't regret any of these chores. These things taught me a lot and I tried to pass this philosophy to my kids who all have gardens now. I'll see if I can find other pictures. Take care. Your friend, Louie



Obituaries



Brian Mead
May 24, 1956 - May 30, 2022

Born in Renton, WA May 24, 1956, Brian came to his first home in Black Diamond, WA. He attended Black Diamond Elementary until the family moved to Enumclaw in 1966 where he attended Enumclaw Schools and graduated from Enumclaw High School in 1974. Brian was always a hard worker. During high school he helped his grandpa cut firewood and worked in the berry fields in the summer. After high school Brian went to work for his Uncle Rod at Batura Construction until he finally settled at Pacific Car and Foundry. When Pacific Car and Foundry closed, Brian went back to his construction background and eventually started his own company, Hammerhead Construction.

When the housing market collapsed in 2008, he had to close the construction company and spend his time working many different jobs though he had heart issues that kept him from going back to work full time. On March 15, 2021, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer that had already metastasized to his liver, he fought as hard as he could but eventually, he lost the battle and passed away peacefully in his home under hospice care on May 30th.

Brian was an avid sportsman who loved hunting and fishing. He also was a champion dart player, bowler, and horseshoe player. Brian could often be found at the Black Diamond Eagles Hall and was a long time Eagle and active member of the Black Diamond Historical Society. He also had a love of classic cars and bought his first 1956 Chevy at 16. He often drove around town in his black and white '56 Chevy.

He is survived by his parents Clayton and Nancy Mead, sister Janet Neigel (David), niece Shannon Van Dyken (Steve, Jack), nephew Sean Neigel (Jen) and many other extended family and friends. There was a celebration of life June 12, 2022 at the Black Diamond Eagles Hall Green River Arie #1490.



Patti Chilcott Diambri
April 23, 1953 - May 20, 2022

We were saddened to learn that *PATTI CHILCOTT DIAMBRI* passed away on May 12, 2022. Patti was born on April 23, 1953. Patti is preceded in death by her parents Jack and Mary Chilcott, brothers Mike, Jerry and Dick. She is survived by her husband Joe Diambri of Kent. Patti and Joe were married on May 26, 2011. Patti had a fondness for her time growing up in Black Diamond and being from the Chilcott family.



Pearl Gwen Klier
Feb 24, 1928 - March 9, 2022

Age 94 of Maple Valley, WA



Anna Marie Marangon
Nov 1, 1937 - March 11, 2021

Age 84



If you shop on Amazon, be sure to shop at smile.amazon.com. When you log in this way, you can select a charitable organization. If you select the Black Diamond Historical Society, we receive funds from Amazon for each purchase made. It really does make a difference so we would appreciate your support when buying Amazon items. Thanks!



2022 Calendar



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

Date	Event	Location/Time
Oct 15 -16	Model Train Show	Gracie Hansen Building, Ravensdale
Oct 23	General Membership Meeting	Museum @ 1 pm
Dec 3	Enumclaw Christmas Parade	Downtown Enumclaw
Dec 4	Black Diamond Community Center Tree Lighting	Black Diamond Community Center
Dec 10	Hometown Christmas	@ Museum 10 am - 3 pm
Dec 11 – Jan 5	Museum Closed for Holidays (reopen on January 5)	Museum

CARL STEIERT - DIAMOND GARAGE

- ◆ In 1931, Carl started working for the old Diamond Stage Company located on Railroad Avenue. In 1948 the stage lines were sold to Renton Stages. Steiert bought into the company at that time and the name of the Black Diamond location was changed to Diamond Garage.
- ◆ Carl opened the Diamond Garage on Highway 169 in 1942. Photo below.
- ◆ In 1974 he sold the business on Highway 169 to Bob Selland and Jim Kemmer.

This is a photo of the original garage on Railroad Ave.



Above: The Diamond Garage Crew, from L-R: Arvid Larson, Evan Thomas, Red Grove & Frank Storey. The gas pump on the right dispensed one gallon at a time.





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.

1763

*Number of guests for
the period May 11
through Aug 31, 2022*

2022

Be Our Guest by Laurie Evans

We had 1,763 visitors (1,151 adults and 612 children). We are so happy to have them see our wonderful museum!!

We welcomed visitors from the local area, as well as other parts of the State (both Western and Eastern Washington) plus Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Michigan, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia. We even had visitors from the countries of Canada, India, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Comments

Great museum!

What a museum.

Lots of history. Awesome!

Just amazing. So love the dedication!

Love this. Workers were great!

Great history here! Friendly staff.

An amazing amount of history; very well documented. Love the letterman sweater. Hope to be back.

Great. Excellent job of preservation.

Lovely welcome. Great memories of my grandfather.

Great people, very amazing facts.

One of the best!

Awesome experience. The kids loved the scavenger hunt.

Sweet tools!

Great memories from my "home town."

Lovely museum. Thank you for your friendly, informative tour.



DONATIONS

From May 11 to August 31, 2022, we received the following in donations

By Laurie Evans, Secretary

MEMORIAL DONATIONS \$ 350

Received for:

Brian Mead

These kind donations make such a difference for the continued operation of our wonderful museum. Donations are always welcome for the following special funds.

NEWSLETTER	\$ 50
FIRETRUCK	
GENERAL	\$ 1,173
HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS	
MEMORIALS	\$ 350
MINERS DAY	
WELSH HERITAGE DAY	
ITALIAN HERITAGE DAY	
SCHOOL REUNION	\$ 100

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. ◆



Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

By Laurie Evans, Membership Chairman



The Black Diamond Historical Society now has 338 members (315 individual/family and 23 business). We are pleased to announce that during the period May 11 – August 31, 2022, we have welcomed the following new members:

Individual – Annual:

J. Broughton,
M. McIntosh,
B. Williams,
A. Anderson,
K. Schrier,
T. Toraason,
B. Persyn

Family - Annual:

Jakubowski family,
Montgomery family,
McCarthy family and
Callan family

Individual – Lifetime:

L. Ziebarth

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! We are so thrilled to have you and do hope you'll visit us often!

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Annual membership expire on December 31 each year. This newsletter is the official notification that renewal payments should be made prior to the December 31, 2022, expiration. Mail a check payable to BDHS to P.O. Box 1, Black Diamond, WA 98010 or pay online via our website (www.blackdiamondmuseum.org). Annual membership rates are \$20.00 for Individual, \$30.00 for Family, and \$50 for Business. Thank you. ◆

VOTE!

**BLACK DIAMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
ELECTION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR THE BOARD**

The winners will begin their three-year term on January 1, 2023

ABSENTEE ELECTION BALLOT for 2023-2025

EACH MEMBER MAY HAVE ONLY ONE VOTE. Write-in nominations shall precede election. Counting of all ballots will be done by the Nominating/Election Chairperson and two other members of the Society during the General Membership meeting on Sunday, October 23, 2022. If you will not be attending in person, please use this absentee ballot to make your elections of the board for the next term. Mail your ballot to BDHS, P.O. Box 1, Black Diamond, WA 98010. Thank you!

<p>President</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Steve Israel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Vice President</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> *Stacey Wehus</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> *Laurie Evans</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> *Sherrie Evans</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>	<p>Directors (only select 8)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Linda Arden</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> *Gomer Evans</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> *Greg Litchy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> *Don Mason</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> *Elsie Parkin</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Janice Ranton</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> *Susie Thompson</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> *Sue Watson</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> *Dave Watson</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>
--	---

VOTE!

* Indicates incumbent

Note: You may write-in an alternate name in any of the blank lines.



Signature of voting member: _____

Printed name of voting member: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____

Ballots must be postmarked by October 19, 2022



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.

ELECTIONS FOR 2023-2025 BOARD

The election of our Black Diamond Historical Society (BDHS) Board of Directors and Officers will be held at our annual General Membership Meeting on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at 1 p.m.



Bravo!



Please complete the absentee ballot on the previous page and mail it to
PO Box 1, Black Diamond, WA 98010 today!



REMINDER!

DUES ARE DUE BY 12/31

See page 13