



◆ NEWSLETTER ◆

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Banner Photo: Mine #14 coal miners, likely early 1900s. Photo preserved by Frank Guidetti.

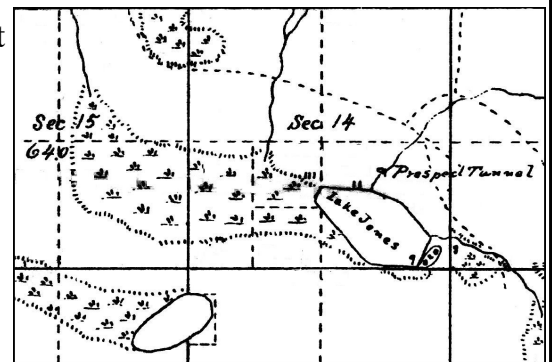
BLACK DIAMOND COAL MINE #14

By Bill Kombol

The Black Diamond area coal mines are numbered on a large map displayed at the museum, a small portion of which is featured nearby. Mine #14 is 89 on the map.

Black Diamond's first prospect tunnel was soon called Mine #14, named for the section of land in which it was located. The mine was situated about 300 feet east of Highway 169, and close to the present location of the municipal shop building at 32808 – 3rd Avenue. Concrete pillars measuring ten feet tall and four feet thick mark what's left of the operation. The pillars supported hoisting machinery that pulled rail car loads of coal out of the sloping portal entry. The pillars are on a 5.5-acre lot now owned by Bob Kaye, a 20-year veteran of the Black Diamond Planning Commission.

An 1884 U.S. Government Survey map shows the mine's opening, labeled "Prospect Tunnel." It's seen in a cropped portion of a very early map. The coal seam was no doubt discovered within a deep gully carved by Lawson Creek where it flows through loose soils and drains southwest into Jones Lake (aka Lake 14). The map's straight solid



The dot labeled Prospect Tunnel on this 1884 map shows Mine #14's original location.

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 email the Society if you wish to submit an article, at museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org

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www.twitter.com/BDHistory

HOURS -

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

Saturday & Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



DID YOU KNOW?

From the "Sparkler", the Black Diamond High School Newsletter, December 1931.

Senior News. For the past few weeks some of the boys have been having a beard growing contest. A few of the well known participants were Shiek Manowski, Louis Zumek, Mell Martin, Herbie Benz, and John Walsh. It was decided that "Zuke" won by a quarter of an inch.

General News. We are fully aware of the poor condition of our present gym but it has never been necessary to "shoo the cows and chickens out" as recently stated in a Foster Growler. However, plans are being made for a five thousand dollar gymnasium to be constructed in 1932. Until then we must take such exaggeration with a smile.

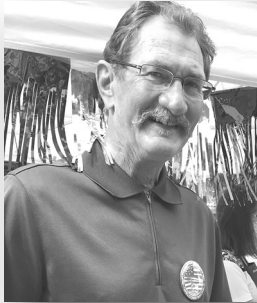
BOARD MEMBERS

In our last newsletter the banner photo was of the newly elected Board members. Those pictured here were not present for the photo: Newly elected Directors (from left to right) are Janice Ranton and Linda Arden and re-elected Director Susie Thompson



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

A MESSAGE *from the* PRESIDENT



STEVE
ISRAEL

The Black Diamond Historical Society is a lot more than just artifacts in a museum. We are a small group of volunteers who care deeply about our history and are very proud of our museum and all that we have accomplished.

The Historical Society actively engages with the community through events and programs, such as educational presentations and entertaining performances, even out in the woods. Yes, in the woods and blackberries.

Many of our dedicated volunteers are exploring the surrounding area in search of history. Some of that history is in Franklin.

Franklin was a mining town about three miles east of Black Diamond. Our Society founder, Carl Steiert was exploring Franklin many years ago, and was leading tours in the 1980s. Don Mason became interested and accompanied Carl on his tours and exploits. Don is our local expert and is known as the Mayor of Franklin. We have photos, stories, and artifacts from Franklin in our museum. The tours are on hold but should resume next year.

About once a month, Sahara Pizza invites us to present "Black Diamond and How it Came to be". This is a three-person presentation. We have a narrator, slideshow operator, and a musician.

We are dedicated to educating and inspiring the next generation through programs like "The Ghost's Grave," which received high praise from acclaimed author Peg Kehret. We partnered with the King County Library System of Black Diamond for this event. We were honored to have author Peg Kehret attend.

The museum regularly hosts the third-grade class of Black Diamond Elementary. And of course, we have "Hometown Christmas". This is a very popular event for children of all ages.

We host many other activities and presentations in our museum and the community. Another example is Fountain Court Senior Living, where we have scheduled the "Black Diamond and How it Came to be" presentation.

Our list of interesting guest speakers on various subjects is growing. Some have been so popular, we will have an encore performance. Find us on Facebook and check out our website for more information. If you have an idea for an event, please let us know.

Steve Israel,
BDHS President

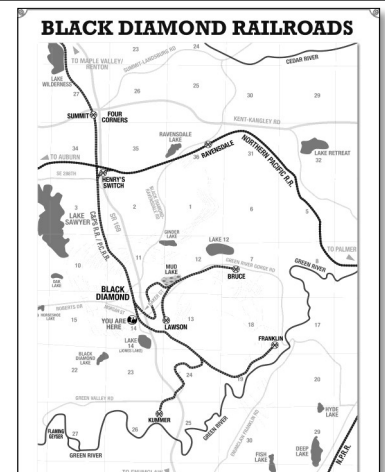


RAILROAD MAP

By Sherrie Evans

In the last newsletter we highlighted our new Mine map. Next to it we now have a Railroad map that depicts the location of the tracks into and around Black Diamond. Many thanks to Bill Kombol and Keith Watson for their invaluable history of the railroads and to Bryson Michael of RK Graphics for the design work. The first train reached Black Diamond on December 12, 1884. The last passenger service was in 1925 and the last train load of coal left Mine 11 in 1969. We

hope you stop by soon and check out the new map and the accompanying legend.

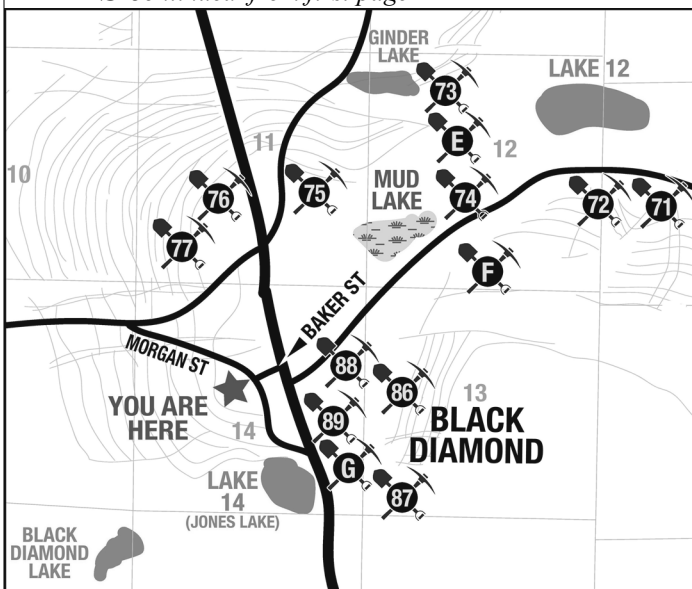


BLACK DIAMOND'S COAL MINES

MINE 14

By Bill Kombol

MINES continued from first page



Mine #14 is shown as 89 on this map.

lines mark the square boundaries of Section 14 with straight dashed lines showing quarter-sections. A section typically measures 640 acres or one square mile, while each quarter section is 160 acres. Creeks are shown as curving lines. The meandering short-dashed lines were likely early trails or primitive roads. Swampy areas are shown with plant symbols.

Mine #14 was the first opening on the McKay coal seam. The coal's exceptional quality convinced the Black Diamond Coal Mining Company to move its operations from Nortonville, California. The McKay was the best vein in the area, situated within the Puget Formation, a term applied to the 6,000-foot thick, geological stratum formed mostly of sandstone but interlayered with 18 distinct coal seams called the Franklin series.

The McKay seam was the most famous of the 18 and is coincidentally the No. 14 seam in the series, not to be confused with Mine #14, named for the section. The Gem seam (No. 17) was the second most heavily mined vein, followed by the Fulton (No. 12) and No. 10 (which had no colloquial name). The Big Dirty (No. 13) and Harris (No. 18) seams were barely touched. This Franklin series of coal seams stretch from the Cedar River at Landsburg, south through Ra-

vensdale into Black Diamond, preceding east via Lawson to Franklin, then south and east across the Green River Gorge into the Deep Lake area near Cumberland.

The McKay seam was classified as a non-coking, bituminous steam coal that compared very favorably with the better grades of fuel obtained in the Eastern States. The sulfur content in Mine #14 was considered low by industry standards. The seam also produced a small amount of methane gas that accumulated in abandoned mine workings making the use of safety lamps necessary.

Coal production from Mine #14 had to wait for the completion of the Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad before it could be shipped to market. The first trainload left Black Diamond in March 1885. During its first 20 years, the mine was worked under the direction of Mine Superintendent, Morgan Morgans. In 1904, the Black Diamond Coal Mining Company's land and mining operations were sold to the Pacific Coast Coal Company. Morgans retired and died a year later, in 1905 at age 75.

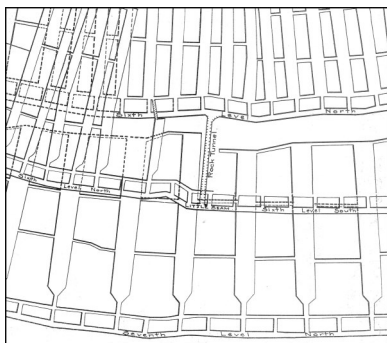
Mine #14 was operated for 34 years from 1884 until 1917. The mine extended down on ten levels (about 180 feet per level) stretching underground west of Morganville almost to the east edge of the new Ten Trails development. It reached a depth of over 1,800 feet or about 1,250 feet below sea level. At its deepest levels, Mine #14 was connected to its sister operation, Mine #11 (originally Morgan Slope) which opened in 1897. Mine #14's annual workforce typically ranged from about 150 to 200 men, with about 80% working underground while 20% had surface jobs.

In the early years, separate production records were not kept for individual Black Diamond mines. But during more than three decades of operation, Mine #14 produced over three million tons of coal, or about 24% of the 12.7 million tons produced between 1884 and 2004 from all Black Diamond mines, including the John Henry surface operation. Mine #11 was Black Diamond's most successful extracting nearly seven million tons during its 31 years of operation.

The geology of this area of Western Washington is complex due to the uplift of the Cascade Mountains which twisted, turned, and sometimes displaced the coal seams formed 50–53 million years ago. Perhaps

the best way to imagine one of the 18 coal seams is to think of a sandwich made of two generous pieces of bread that we'll call sandstone. In between the sandstone is a thick slice of ham representing the seam of coal. The sandwich has been tilted to let's say a 30-degree angle. The bread's crust at the top represents the earth's surface sprinkled with trees and undergrowth. Early explorers discovered the seam of ham, typically in river or creek beds where the crust and vegetation were eroded away. They tested the seam, found it to be of superior quality, and started mining.

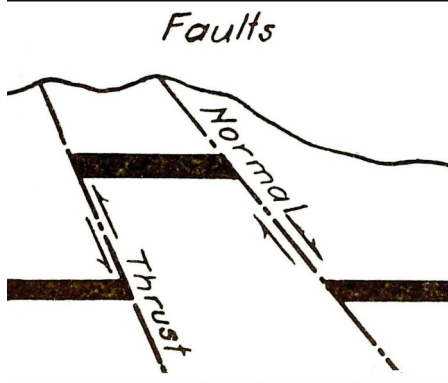
Since sandstone (bread in our analogy) has no value, the miners dug their tunnels directly into the thick vein of coal (i.e. ham) and followed it down the tilted sandwich. The first tunnel was called the slope or portal entrance into this slice of coal. At each level down the 30-degree slope, horizontal tunnels, termed gangways were driven in both directions horizontally along the ham. In time the entire piece of ham was checkerboarded into discrete blocks from which the valuable product can be extracted.



An illustration showing the checkerboard pattern of how coal was extracted in blocks. From George Watkin Evans' "The Coal Fields of King County" 1913.

The areas where the ham (or coal) was mined are called rooms, but miners were careful to leave alternating pillars in between. Had they tried to extract all the ham at once, the sandwich would collapse on itself, burying the workers and destroying the mine. A drawing of the checker-boarded, room and pillar mining system used at Mine #14 is shown nearby.

Sometimes miners ran into situations where the sandwich was dislodged long ago by geologic forces. Earthquakes and upheavals resulting



Geologic forces caused coal seams to shift along fault lines.

from the movement of tectonic plates caused the seam of coal or ham to shift. These areas where our slice of ham had been displaced in one direction or another are called faults (see the drawing). The miners would be happily chewing through the mineral that paid their wages when they'd run into a rock wall.

Knowing they'd hit a fault, the miners needed to blast tunnels through the bread (i.e. sandstone) to discover where the displaced ham had moved. These connections were called rock tunnels as they were drilled using dynamite through solid sandstone. The sandstone was structurally sound, so neither shoring nor support timber was necessary to hold up the roof. Sometimes the ham was porous and produced methane gas which if exposed to open flames produced deadly explosions. Two miners lost their lives in Mine #14 from gas explosions.

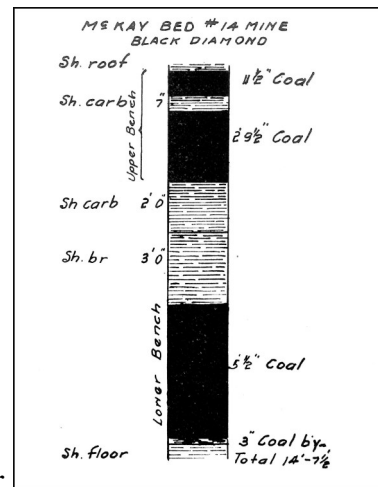
This ham sandwich metaphor is of course a simplistic view. For the real seam of coal, unlike a slice of ham, is comprised of many sedimentary layers. These layers include shale and parting rock. Imagine a layer of fat or other impurity running through the slice of ham that would be discarded after extraction.

At Mine #14, the McKay seam was about 15 feet thick consisting of two benches separated by about four feet of shale and bony coal. One was called the Upper McKay and the other the Lower McKay. The lower bench in early reports was simply called the Black Diamond vein. The profile of the coal seam at Mine #14 appears nearby. 'Sh Carb' stands for carbonaceous shale and 'Sh Br' means brown shale.

Both coal and shale were mined and brought to the surface then processed through a facility next to the railroad tracks called the bunkers. There coal was sorted over two separate screens into three sizes:

- stoker coal (approximately 1" minus),
- egg-nut sized coal (1" to 4"), and
- lump coal (3" to 12").

Bunker jobs were typically performed by older men



The McKay coal seam profile measured just shy of 15 feet at Mine #14.

MY FAVORITE SUMMER MEMORY

I spent much time with my grand folks at Lake 12 during my preteen years, helping Grandma and Grandpa repairing boats, cleaning cabins, hauling garbage, and picking wild blackberries with Grandma. One time we were picking berries around a huge tree stump. I was on the opposite side of Grandma. I went around the stump to talk to her, but she was gone, and a bear was there. The bear ran one way and I the opposite. The pies and jam were scrumptious.

Bob Beers

When school got out for the summer we ran wild. Swimming at Peterson's resort at Lake 12 with half the kids in town; swimming at Green River Gorge, catching a ride in empty coal trucks that were going back to the mine on the river in Franklin to spend the day fishing.

Dennis Richardson

When I was younger I looked forward to swimming lessons at Lake 12. It seemed like everyone we knew took lessons. The scariest part for me was having to back float for 15 seconds. I was sure I couldn't float that long.

Janie DalSanto Parkinson

Summertime meant swimming time. Me and the guys walked up to Lake 12, usually Hank and Ed Konoske, Norman, Billy Maudill, and Don King. They had a big raft there. My sisters Lynn and Margaret could swim right out to it. They were so strong..

Gomer Evans Jr.

So much fun - we fished the Green River Gorge area, rode logs down the river, lots of rapids - good times and no one drowned! Jim Konoske, Jerry Rogers and I crawled under the Kummer Bridge girders - a long way down but we made it!! We built tree houses in the woods and camped overnight.

Jack Thompson

Black Diamond was a great place for kids to grow up. The school ball field was our hang out. We played Steal the Flag and Kick the Can. We



liked to make human pyramids to see how high we could go. When we fell we would have a big pile

(photo names: Rose Elder and Donna Wright-right; Dodie Carpenter, Fuzzy Thompson, Bob Beers and Jerry Rogers-left; Jean Furman, Rosemary Rogers, Betty Johnson, Susan Dodd, Joyce Dearden and Barbara Evans (bottom)

Rosemary Rogers-Konoske Bigelow

I remember one time Dean LeBeau and I went fishing below Kummer Bridge. I was maybe 10 and Dean was a couple years younger. We had to be very careful crossing the Green River because we didn't want our stolen cigarettes to get wet. We stole them from our dads. After fishing we climbed up to the bridge. We put one of the fish we caught onto our poles and dropped it way down below. We would wait until we saw cars coming and we would start reeling like we were playing a fish. As the cars got closer we reeled faster and timed it just right. Up came the fish, the cars honked and waved at us. We laughed uncontrollably because we tricked the drivers. When I think of the shenanigans we pulled as kids I feel lucky to be alive.

Gerald Kuzaro

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

By Sherrie Evans

We have been quite busy since our Spring newsletter was published. Thanks to our volunteers and others who have helped us continue to support our mission “to discover, preserve and disseminate the history of Black Diamond and its environs.”

March 11 - We hosted a group from the **Children of the American Revolution** who was holding their meeting at the Black Diamond Bakery. We were pleased to provide a special presentation for the group.

March 28/April 20/May 18 – Black Diamond How It Came to Be. Museum volunteers Steve Israel, Sherrie Evans, Keith Watson and Dee Israel have been providing information and a musical history of Black Diamond at the Sahara Pizza in Black Diamond, under the new ownership of Tori Ammons Hall.

April 2 - Is There a Mine In Your Backyard? This fantastic presentation was done by Bill Kombol, Palmer Coking Coal Company. Bill has such an extensive knowledge of the coal mines of Black Diamond and the surrounding towns. He shared terrific information including where the mines are, how unlikely it is that you have

a mine in your backyard, what happens if they do discover an opening or hole in the earth, how mines worked here on the slopes and much more. We have already had requests for Bill to repeat this event and hope to do so in the fall.

April 8 - We hosted a tour group from the **Daughters of the American Revolution.**

April 20 - Black Diamond How It Came to Be. This was a repeat of our March presentation at the Sahara Pizza with Keith Watson providing the information this time and of course, Steve Israel providing the music (see separate article

about this event).

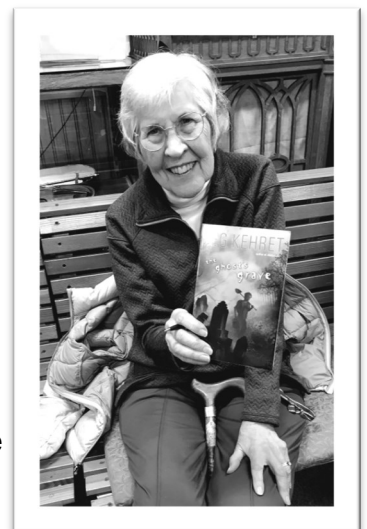
April 23 - A Trip Back Home. Our volunteer, Zach Pratt, provided a wonderful presentation and story about his trip down to Nortonville, California the “birthplace” of our own Black Diamond, WA, when the miners from Nortonville, CA, moved the town here for better coal. Steve Israel accompanied Zach with great songs to help tell the story.

April 25 - Be A Volunteer in Black Diamond. The City of Black Diamond held a special event to welcome folks that wish to volunteer with a variety of organizations in Black Diamond. Steve Israel, President, and Linda Arden, Volunteer Coordinator, presented information on volunteering at our museum and also about our Hometown Christmas event.

April 27 - We hosted **two tours** at the museum, one from the City of Sumner Seniors group and the other a “moms and kids” group.

May 4 - Kentlake High School tour. We hosted a tour with teacher Eric Fisher and his students from Kentlake High School.

May 6 - The Ghost’s Grave. This was a “funtastic” event for kids. We purchased 30 copies of the book “The Ghost’s Grave” by local author Peg Kehret. The story involves a young man, Josh, who comes to “Carbon City” for the summer and the tales of his adventures with Willie, a ghost he befriended. Families were invited to register their children and receive a free book. The kids



MINES Continued from page 5

and boys who worked standing at platforms called picking tables. There, shale, parting rock, and pieces of mine timber were removed. The waste material was thrown down a chute and then transported by coal cars on rail and dumped in slag piles.

Enough coal was discarded so that this slag pile spontaneously combusted and burned for years forming a clinker-like byproduct called red cinders. It was used to build roads and high school running tracks. The Black Diamond-Ravensdale Road was surfaced with red cinders and was colloquially known as the "red top" road. Mine #14's slag pile was located on tax lot 142106-9103, located below the railroad grade and above Jones Lake Road. More than 60,000 cubic yards of remaining red cinders were extracted from the site in 1990.

Surface facilities, called the Mine #14 top works were substantial consisting of the following structures as shown on a July 1915 map. The features are listed in alphabetical order with a brief description of each.

Blacksmith Shop – where blacksmiths forged and repaired iron and metals used throughout the mine.

Boiler House – three boilers burned coal to produce steam used to generate electricity for both the mine and town.

Bunkers – a large wooden structure with sorting screens, picking tables, and storage bins located next to the railroad tracks.

Car Repair – the station where coal cars were fixed occupied the space next to the Blacksmith Shop.

Engine House – contained the hoisting machinery used to lower and raise coal cars into and out of the mine. A hoist resembled a giant fishing reel coiled with a 1" steel cable.

Implement Shed – where tools such as picks and shovels were stored.

Foreman Quarters – a walled-off section of the Lamp Room.

Iron Rack – storage racks for mine rail used around the mine yard and underground. Mine rails were of a smaller gauge and lighter weight than those used by commercial railroads.

Lamp Room – where safety lamps to detect methane gas and miner's lights were stored and readied for the next shift.

Lumber Yard – where mine props, supports, and lagging were stockpiled by local loggers. The Lumber Yard was connected by three rail lines to the mouth of the mine.

Machine Shop – a complete shop filled with tools, lathes, and equipment to fabricate, and repair needed parts and machinery. Mines during this era manufactured many of the items they needed.

Mine Office – the nerve center for operations where the mine owners, superintendents, and foremen planned and supervised mine operations. This Mine Office included a telegraph station.

Oil House – where oil and lubricants including grease were stored.

Powder House – the reinforced building where blasting caps and dynamite were safeguarded. It was located hundreds of feet away from other mine structures in case of an accidental explosion.

Storehouses – two buildings are labeled storehouses but without specifics as to what was stored.

Water Pipeline – sourced from Mud Lake to supply the mine's water needs.

Water Tanks – there were two large storage tanks for distributing water in and around the mine. In case of fire, hydrants were positioned around the property.

W.C. – this small structure is only identified with two letters, which likely stand for Water Closet, the British term for a toilet or outhouse. It is shown straddling Lawson Creek, above where it flows into Jones Lake. From the building's shape and size shown on the map, it probably had four or five seats for the 150 to 200 men who typically worked at the mine.

Coal mining operations were dangerous and Mine #14 was no stranger to the inherent risks. Tragically, 11 men lost their lives while mining. The first death occurred in 1893 and the last in 1913.

However, during a period when the average of all Washington mines experienced more than ten miner deaths per million tons of coal mined, Mine #14's ratio of fewer than four deaths per million mined tons compares favorably in terms of relative safety. Still, statistics supply scant comfort to the families of the 11 miners lost at Mine #14:

MINES *Continued from previous page*

John T. Williams – 1893, rock fall.
Evan J. Thomas – 1895, run over by coal car.
Marcelleno Plaino – 1896, rock fall.
Thomas Davis – 1900, gas explosion.
Joseph Fontana – 1906, coal car accident.
Domonick Revetti – 1909, rock fall.

Joe Donkers – 1910, electrocuted.
William R. Dabney – 1910, rock fall.
Romeo Cattellaro – 1912, electrocuted.
John Jackson – 1913, gas explosion.
Amedia Rossi – 1913, gas explosion.

In the next newsletter, Black Diamond's second mine, called Mine #2 will be explored. ◆

IN THE MUSEUM: COAL CAR REPLICAS

By D'Ann Tedford

Are the coal cars available on Amazon? Can you Goggle 'coal cars' and find a store nearby that sells them? "Where do those cars come from?" That is a question most frequently asked about the models on display in Black Diamond Museum. Those cars have a special appeal for use as home décor. But no, they are not available in stores or online.

Howard Botts, mayor of Black Diamond for 26 years, designed and built the very first set of coal cars. They were used as centerpieces on dinner tables at Black Diamond's All-School Reunion. For the last seven years, the cars have been built by Steve Israel, carpenter and craftsman who

Howard Botts process to the tee. That process, as depicted in the photos, starts with using 4x4s and a table saw to carve out the shape of a coal car. The axle blocks, created from scratch, have holes made with a drill press. Coal car wheels are not made of rubber. Made in the U.S. by a wood products outlet, they are wood wheels that



currently serves as president of Black Diamond Historical Society. He most often starts building the cars in a batch of twelve. The more he builds in a single time frame, the quicker the whole process goes. He estimated that "cranking them out by the dozen" takes about an hour per car (plus the set-up and clean-up chores). He follows the



Steve paints black and attaches to the axle. At this point, he paints the cars white and computer printed labels are applied. The diamonds are created from craft paper cut into shape by Steve. He then mixes Black Diamond coal, supplied by Palmer Coking Coal, with a secret solution, Elmer's Glue. The glue turns clear when setting up. The mix is piled on top of the solid block of wood.

The last step includes a warning label, "not a toy." Coal cars are designer items intended to be displayed on a windowsill, within a bookcase, or on a ledge, a coffee table or desktop. They are available at the Black Diamond Museum for a suggested donation of \$20. ◆

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

June 7 - Black Diamond All School Reunion

The annual "ALL" school reunion will be held Wednesday, June 7, 2023, from 11 am to 2 pm at the Black Diamond Community Center. If you have ever attended school in Black Diamond - any grade and any year - you are welcome to attend. We typically have close to 100 people in attendance and oh the stories and memories that are shared!

Registration can be done by submitting a \$25 payment to BDHS, P.O. Box 1, Black Diamond, WA 98010 or go to our website (www.blackdiamondmuseum.org) and under "SHOP" where you will find the payment link for the reunion event.

July 15 - Miners Day in Black Diamond

This annual event was started to honor the business merchants of Black Diamond. It is an all-day festivity (9 am to 4 pm) along Railroad Avenue. There will be vendor booths, music, skit, a pet parade and lots more. The City of Black Diamond and Mountain View Fire will also be there and the museum will have a booth. Our Black Diamond "Hysterical" group will be presenting the annual hilarious skit. Loads of family fun - hope to see you there!

August 12 - The Railroads of Black Diamond

Keith Watson will be sharing a presentation at the museum (12 noon to 1 pm). Keith will be focusing on the fascinating history of the railroads into and out of Black Diamond. Whether you are a train buff or not, this information is wonderful. Plus - you can climb aboard our locomotive and spend

some time in our caboose. Choo! Choo!

September 2/3/4 - Black Diamond Labor Days

The Black Diamond Labor Days Committee has already been hard at work preparing plans and activities for this year's festivities. Mark your calendar now for September 2nd, 3rd and 4th. The 3-day affair is such a wonderful family and friends event. Lots of old-fashioned games! Who remembers finding coins in the hay or getting a peanut bag and ice cream? The parade will again be on Monday morning. Be sure to visit our booth to purchase your raffle tickets to beautiful gift baskets donated by our wonderful volunteers and community.

October 15/16/17 - Model Train Show

The Model Train Show will be in town at the Gracie Hanson Building in Ravensdale. This is a wonderful opportunity to view the talents of the railroad hobbyists who have built amazing displays. We will also be there with a table and information about the railroads in Black Diamond.

December 9 - Hometown Christmas

This is our single largest event of the year as we host family and friends along Railroad Avenue for a wonderful "hometown" holiday event from 10 am to 3 pm. Visitors will be treated to face painting, art activities, King County Library activity, smores station, hay ride, and an opportunity to visit with Frosty, Hunter the Elf, Santa and Mrs. Claus. All activities are free for kids! Last year almost 400 people attended. If you are interested in volunteering to help on this day please contact us at the museum. It is so much fun!

THANK YOU JANE!

For years we have heard so many great comments about how beautiful the gardens of the museum are. We owe credit for the beautiful gardens to Jane Falding – gardener extraordinaire! Jane recently moved out of town and had to step down as our gardener – we already miss her and wish her the best in her new home! On February 16, we held a Jane Falding Appreciation Day at the museum to celebrate this special lady!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Sherrie Evans

Meet the Masons and Zach Pratt

Don and Lynn Mason are long-time volunteers with our Society. Don is a charter member of the museum. You will find them here almost every Thursday and at least a few weekends a month. Lynn is that charming person at the front desk on many days! She also makes the best lemonade punch for our events. Don is well known as the "Mayor of Franklin" because of his extensive work up at Franklin and the many hours he has spent leading tours of the area. Don also serves as an assistant archivist and helps with the many research requests we receive, especially those for family history.

Zach has been a volunteer with us for the past couple of years. We are blessed with his passion for both geology and history. On most weekends you can find him either hiking in the Franklin area or serving as a docent/greeter at the museum. Zach and his wife Kristen reside in Auburn and have been married five years. Zach graduated from Kentwood High School and is currently a junior at Southern New Hampshire University,

majoring in geoscience and geophysics.

He recently took a trip on his own down to Nortonville, California, the "birthplace" of Black Diamond. The Black Diamond Mining Company moved from Nortonville to open new mines here. Zach provided a wonderful presentation about this on April 23rd. He will be doing another presentation "BD Rocks...and Coal" on May 21st.

We love our volunteers and always welcome new ones. Stop by and see us some time!



DOING continued from page 7

then came to the museum on May 6th and were entertained by Gretchen Nelson of the King County Library with some fascinating questions and information about the book. They also received "skeleton" pens to their delight. Then it was off to the "Carbon City Cemetery" (aka the Catholic Cemetery) where the children hunted for a special grave.

To their delight they found it, including the money box the nasty banker had stashed

away with the fundraiser dollars, and the box with the leg bone of Willie the ghost. We were so hon-



ored to have the author Peg Kehret with us for this event.

May 13 - Italian Heritage Day. Lenny Folino, museum volunteer and member of the Sons and Daughters of Italy Black Diamond Lodge did a presentation.

May 15 - 100 Women Who Care. This organization (from whom we have received funds) held an opportunity for community members to learn about other non-profit organizations. Jeff Montgomery, our Community Outreach Coordinator, presented information about the Society, our museum and our activities. Jeff is also now attending the regular meetings of the Maple Valley-Black Diamond Chamber of Commerce on our behalf.

We are so excited that each of the presentations have been made to a full house. We hope to see you soon at one of our upcoming events.

Obituaries



Gomer Evans Jr.
Sept. 18, 1927-May 10, 2023

Gomer Evans Jr. was born September 18, 1927 and went home to be with his family on May 10, 2023. He was born to Gomer Sr. and Alice (Hughes) Evans. He was very proud of his parents who immigrated from

Wales but met and married here. He often boasted that he was 100% Welsh and flew that flag at his home. His father was a coal miner/fire boss in Black Diamond and mined the deepest coal veins in the area. He was one of nine children and the only one born in Bellingham when his father was called there for a special project for the mines.

His first job was working at the Pacific Coast Store for Mr. McDowell. He delivered groceries in the 1934 truck. In his youth he was quite athletic; loved baseball and basketball. He was a member of the 1949 Black Diamond Merchants Pacific Coast League Champions.

He served in World War II and received the Merchant Mariners of WWII Congressional Gold Medal.

He married Marie Ann Barnes on June 29, 1949. They had two daughters, Sherrie and Debby. Other than being in Bellingham for birth, he lived his entire life in Black Diamond and is well known there as "Mr. Black Diamond."

He drove truck most of his life, all kinds of them. He received a Safe Driver Award from Ryder for 19 years of safe driving.

He was a proud member of the Masonic Diamond Lodge 83, having entered his apprenticeship on May 26, 1962; earned his Fellowcraft on September 15, 1962, and became a Master Mason on October 27, 1962. He served as Master of Diamond Lodge 83. He was also a member of the Shriners and a Scottish Rite mason. He received the Grand Master Achievement Award in 2007. The lodge in Black Diamond was named for him in 2017, now the Gomer Evans Masonic Center.

He was a member of the group that led the City incorporation in 1959 and was the youngest council member. He served many roles for the city including the Chief of Police (1969-1972) and he served

as Mayor from 1973-1977. He knew where every water pipe in that town was laid! In 2015, the city named the street in front of his home after him, Gomer Evans, Jr. Drive. He has also received awards for the 2013 Citizen of the Year and a 2010 Lifetime Commitment for his contributions. He serves on the Black Diamond Cemetery Board and the Black Diamond Labor Day Committee. He is well-known for restoring the Green River Queen and driving it in the parades.

He received the Distinguished Citizen Medal from the Daughters' of the American Revolution.

He was a long-time member of the Green River Black Diamond Eagles #1490. He was also an avid golfer and member of the Enumclaw Country Club. He served as President of the Mens Club in 1994 and 1995. He volunteered with the Washington Golf Association as a course rater and earned the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2007.

For the past 20 years he has served as a volunteer with the Black Diamond Historical Society/Museum. He chaired the projects to build the Coal Miners Honor Garden and to bring the locomotive to the museum. He was in charge of all the maintenance projects and completed too many to list. He was a regular volunteer with the Thursday crew and everyone loved hearing his stories of growing up and living in Black Diamond. He was a living history of this town. A bench in his family name is located near the Honor Garden. He once said "No matter what the future brings, remembering our past will always be very important in decisions that will come before us."

Gomer was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Marie; and his siblings: Muriel (Wing), Jim, Lynne (Bonnell), Margaret (White), David, Debby (Barnes), Barbara (Celigoy-Allen) and Tommy Evans and by his grandson Ronnie Armstrong and son-in-law Ken Jensen.

He is survived by his daughters Sherrie Evans and Debby (husband Mark) Campbell; grandsons Mike Armstrong (wife Jen) and Jeff Campbell (wife Kate); granddaughter Jennifer Jensen; great-grandchildren Kenny Jensen-Ishii, Sydney Campbell, Ashley Armstrong, Dylan Armstrong, Sonya Campbell, Mathew Campbell and Hunter, Olivia, Will and Jack Kirsch. Many nieces, nephews and

grands of those also survive him.

Services will be held June 2, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. at the Tahoma National Cemetery with a Celebration of Life following at the Enumclaw Field House.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Black Diamond Historical Society, P.O. Box 1, Black Diamond, WA 98010 or to the Gomer Evans Masonic Center/Diamond Lodge 83, P.O. Box 236, Black Diamond, WA 98010.



Dahni Lynn Malgarini-Logar

Mar 4, 1962 - Feb 23, 2023

Dahni Lynn Malgarini-Logar passed away peacefully on February 23rd with her family by her side. Dahni was born in Tacoma Washington, to Don and Joan

(Nachtsheim) Malgarini, and grew up in Enumclaw. She spent her entire life living in the South King County area and contributed her talents to many organizations, community groups and professional associations.

Her husband, Pete Logar, came into her life in the early 80's and together, they created a home filled with their three sons, and often many of their sons' friends. Dahni was a proud mom to three wonderful, caring children, Peter, Jake, and Sam and was a doting grandmother to her only grandson Declan. These boys were everything to Dahni, and she gave her full support to them in all that they did. Dahni adored all of "her men". She was unstoppable - running, skiing, hiking, rafting, camping, crafting and endless hours of volunteering supporting their boys' schools, sports, her church, and countless scouting activities. Her boys can recall all the times that mom cheered them on in victory, and more importantly, when she picked them up after tough losses and fantastic failures. She showed her boys the only way to live is to keep getting back up, find the good in people, and do what you can to bring about more good.

Dahni will be remembered by her family and friends as loyal, loving, and full of life. She was fierce in her dedication to her family, and vast circle of friends. Dahni was always there for her loved ones, jumping in without hesitation to help no matter the task or need. She loved being with friends, often offering to

host gatherings, and will be fondly remembered for her laughter, playful ribbing, sense of humor and most importantly, for her compassion and love. And let us not forget her love of celebrations, parties, and family and group trips! She was a master organizer and arranger and could coordinate an event down to which size Ziploc bags would be needed at the end of the event. Everything Dahni lent her talents to was better because of her involvement.

She enriched the lives of all who knew her. Her beautiful smile and her presence will be terribly missed by all.



Alison Elizabeth Hollinshead Stern

Aug 2, 1947-Feb 27, 2023

Alison was born in Vancouver, BC, Canada on August 2, 1947. She passed away at her home in Black Diamond on February 27,

2023, with loved ones beside her. Alison grew up in Burnaby, BC. She worked in a bank before going into nursing school. She worked at both the Vancouver General Hospital and St. Joseph Hospital in Vancouver.

In 1976 she married the love of her life, Doug Stern, and moved to Black Diamond. Here she worked at the Auburn Hospital and then at the Benson Heights Rehabilitation Center in Kent.

Alison and Doug served as foster care parents for three years. After that she began working at Western State Hospital in Steilacoom, where she retired after 15 years.

Alison loved Black Diamond and volunteering at the Black Diamond Historical Society Museum. Her smile was contagious, and she was always involved with things for kids. She was also a member of TOPS of Black Diamond. She had many friends from both.

Alison is survived by her husband, Doug, her son Bryce (Sara), granddaughter Addyson, grandson Rocky, and brother David (Jennie). A Celebration of Life will be held later this spring. Memorial donations may be made to The Black Diamond Historical Society Museum, P.O. Box 1, Black Diamond, WA. 98010.



DONATIONS

From February 11, 2023 - April 30 2023, we received the following in donations

By Laurie Evans, Secretary

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In memory of Joe Dal Santo
From R. & J. Burke
In memory of Clayton Mead
From R. & J. Burke
In memory of Alison Stern
From D. Israel
In memory of Barbara Kranz
From Palmer Coking Coal
In memory of Marlene Bortleson
From G. Bortleson

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

Thank you



and



These donations are greatly appreciated. The Black Diamond Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

NEW MEMBERS

By Laurie Evans, Membership Chairman

The Black Diamond Historical Society now has 355 members. We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Individual:

Heidi Sato
Dow Douthitt

Business:

Enumclaw School District
Sahara Pizza

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! We are so thrilled to have you and especially happy to have some new volunteers/docents!

Welcome



Do We Have Your Current Email?

More and more we are hearing that our members are interested in electronic forms of communication. To this end, we now offer electronic payments, we are posting our event via our Facebook page and website, and also occasionally communicating via email. We would like to ascertain that we have the ability to continue to communicate electronically with you, so we would like to have your email in our records. For those that may have added email (or changed email) since becoming members, please send us an email (museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org) and we will be sure to update our records. Thanks!!

904

Number of guests for
the period February
18, 2023-April 30,
2023

2023

Be Our Guest *by Laurie Evans*

We had 904 visitors (640 adults/264 children). We are so happy to have them see our wonderful museum!!

We were pleased to host visitors from all over Western and Eastern Washington, as well as the States of Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Minnesota, Oregon and South Carolina. We also had international visitors from Australia, Ukraine, Switzerland and England!

Comments

“Wonderful! Can’t wait to visit again!”

“So interesting.”

“Keep it up!”

“Big cool!”

“Great museum! Wonderful.”

“Very informative.”

“Fantastic!! So many wonderful things to look at and learn about!”

“Had a great time learning and exploring!”

“Great displays and volunteer docent.”

“Thank you for all the amazing info; we had a great time!”



2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date(s)	Event	Location/Time
June 3	Welsh Heritage Day	Museum, 1 - 3 pm
June 7	Black Diamond All School Reunion	BD Community Center, 11 am - 3 pm
June 10	Maple Valley Days Parade	Maple Valley, WA
July 4	Enumclaw Fourth of July Parade	Downtown Enumclaw
July 15	Miners Day	Railroad Ave. 9 am – 4 pm
August 12	Black Diamond Railroads	Museum, 12 - 1 pm
September 2-4	Labor Day Celebration in Black Diamond - parade is Monday, Sept. 4, 10 am (starts on south end of Highway 169)	Museum open on all days. Labor Day Festivities in Ball Park, Ten Trails and Eagles (Car Show)
October 14-15	Model Train Show	Gracie Hansen Building, Ravensdale 10 am - 5 pm (4 pm on Sun.)
October 22	General Membership Meeting	Museum, 1 - 2 pm
December 2	Enumclaw Christmas Parade	Downtown Enumclaw
December 1	Black Diamond Community Center Tree Lighting with Santa	BD Community Center, 5 pm
December 9	Hometown Christmas	Museum, 10 am - 3 pm
December 10- January 3, 2024	Museum Closed for Holidays (reopen on January 4)	Museum



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

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www.blackdiamondmuseum.org

And make sure to tell your friends, too.



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

or

(online payments accepted on

our website)

(For museum use only) Referred by _____ Date _____ Posted by _____ Date _____ rev. 5/23

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