

Black Diamond Historical Society

Volume 39 NO.1 Winter 2015

◆ **BULLETIN** ◆

Also in this issue

- One of Many Mine Dangers ...2*
- President Message.....3*
- Grounds Facelift Photos4*
- Hometown Christmas.....5*
- 100 Years Ago Chptr 3.....6*
- BDHS Receives Grant.....7*
- Franklin Mine Disaster.....8*
- Lighting a Mine.....10*

Bulletin Board

- In memoriam.....12*
- Donations.....13*
- Guests.....14*
- Membership.....15*



**Clayton Mead Repairs Trolley Line Pole
Mine Entrance Display**

By Gomer Evans

To offer a bit of perspective, a haulage motor is used for hauling the coal cars out of the gangway so that they can be hooked to the main hoist lines of the mine to haul coal carts out of the mine. The rope rider would make the switch from the motor to the main hoist line by stepping on the main line to get slack, pull a pin on the coal car, and hook up the main hoist line so that the cart could be pulled out of the mine.



The hoist lines led the carts to be dumped into the bunker, and then the coal was loaded onto trucks to be hauled to a processing plant.

My brother Dave Evans ran the haulage motor at the Franklin Mine, Seam 12, on level four, and Joe Zumek ran the haulage motor on level two.

The haulage motor ran on electric power using 440 volts from a trolley line. Clayton Mead repaired the disintegrating trolley line pole by replacing it with a new vine maple branch.



An actual haulage motor is on the outside of the north end of the museum, and is part of the coal cart/mine entrance display for all to view and enjoy.





BULLETIN

The mission of the Black Diamond Historical Society shall be the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of the history of Black Diamond and environs, as it relates to King County and the State of Washington.

Black Diamond Bulletin is published quarterly by and for the members of the Black Diamond Historical Society. The society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. (TIN 51-0170304).

PRESIDENT Keith Watson

VICE PRESIDENT Don Malgarini

SECRETARY Alison Stern

TREASURER Bill Boston

DIRECTORS

Howard Botts
Gomer Evans, Jr.
Dee Israel
Steve Israel
Don Mason
Clayton Mead
Susie Thompson
David Watson

MEMBERSHIP Jean Boston

EDITOR Leih Mulvihill

PHOTOGRAPHER Bob Dobson

ARTICLES

Black diamond bulletin invites articles for publication. Articles may be edited for style, length, and clarity. Please contact the society if you wish to submit an article, museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org

CONTACT

Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum
P.O. Box 232
32627 Railroad Avenue
Black Diamond, WA 98010

PHONE 360-886-2142

E-MAIL museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org

WEB

www.blackdiamondmuseum.org
www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory
www.blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com
www.twitter.com/BD_History

HOURS

Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday, 12 to 3 p.m. (winter);
12 to 4 p.m. (summer)



One of Many Mine Dangers

There were many hazards a miner had to contend with when working deep within the earth. Besides the work being backbreaking hard, there was oxygen deprivation, possible collapsing tunnels, accidents from any number of dangerous equipment, just providing light to see in the dark damp atmosphere was also a cause for great concern. As was evident in the Franklin Coal Mine Disaster of 1894 that killed 37 men.

There is some controversy over how the fire really started. According to some accounts, an inquiry revealed that the fire was intentionally set and that the perpetrator, unable to escape the toxic smoke, also died. In other accounts, the fire started accidentally and was under control, but the mine fan was mistakenly shut off, suffocating the miners.

A MESSAGE from the EDITOR



LEIH
MULVIHILL

I've taken the liberty of reprinting a favorite story here for your reading pleasure. But it got me thinking about the progression of the safety of mine lighting. I found three great articles on the subject, two from the Smithsonian and one from a website in the UK, the Lindal & Marton Community Website. Since many of our miners came from the Wales and England, I found this information particularly interesting.

I originally intended on writing on one subject and found I stumbled on yet another interesting subject and hope you will find it as interesting as I did.

Leih Mulvihill
leih@tx3.net



Coal mines, Franklin (King County), 1898

Presidents Message: Winter 2015

The Black Diamond Historical Society had a wonderful year that finished up with a Christmas celebration named "Hometown Christmas". The neighboring businesses on Railroad Avenue participated with the museum in the celebration. Moon at the Bakery; Brenda at the Antique Store, and Mike at the Pizza Deli all decorated

their buildings with Christmas lights and bows. Featured was an outdoor Christmas tree between the Antique Store and the Museum.

There was a hay ride around the neighborhood, a group of carolers from local churches, a Mr. & Mrs.

A MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT



KEITH
WATSON

President's letter
Jan 2015

Clause (the Helland family) at the Bakery, a live Frosty the Snowman (Shawn Oglesbee) was all over the area for the delight of the kids and adults. The restored fire truck was on display and the Nutty Squirrel Gelato was dispensing his delicious treats. The weather was perfect and many folks walked up and down Railroad Avenue and participated in the festivities.

Inside the museum were professional story tellers, music, and goodies to eat. Ladies dressing in antique attire walked from business to business. The true meaning of Christmas love was present and

smiles were non-stop. Thanks to all who made this possible; a job well done!

The restored fire truck has been busy representing the Historical Society during Christmas time at the Community Center the Enumclaw Christmas parade and the Hometown Christmas at the museum. Joe Androsko put Christmas lights on the truck that really looked outstanding. He is the designated driver as well as the manager of the restoration of the truck. He did a great job of representing us in both communities. We are an active society with community events and in the museum with upgrades and on-going changes; please see some of those in the photos on the following pages..

We continue to have a need on the weekends for greeters at the museum. Please consider helping us. It's only one day a month and it is fun! All you need is a smile!

Speaking of smiles; if you make purchases on Amazon.com you could become a supporter of the Black Diamond Historical Society by becoming a shopper on AmazonSmile. Naming the non-profit organization of your choice allows Amazon to donate .5% of you purchase price to the Black Diamond Historical Society and the price of the items you purchase remains the same. We would really appreciate you doing this and spreading the



word to others. You shop and Ama-

zon gives. It costs nothing to switch to smile!

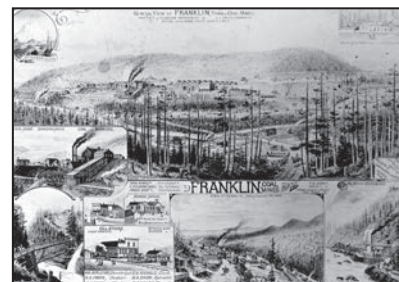
I want to thank Leih Mulvihill for being our newsletter editor. Leih owns a ladies boutique shop named the "The Dazzled Dame" that has been a finalist in the 2012 Best Women's Accessories and runner up in the 2013 & 2014 in the same category and a finalist in Best Women's Boutique. What a great accomplishment! She is located about 4 miles north of us at the 4 corners shopping center. Find the "The Dazzled Dame" on Facebook. She has Seahawk items! She is supporting the Black Diamond Historical Society by volunteering her time as editor. Thanks Leih!



Don Mason, the Mayor of Franklin, will be teaming up with others for the tours of the town site of Franklin a Ghost Town. We have tours on the first Saturday of February and March and meet at the museum at noon for an orientation presentation and then caravan to the site that is above the Green River Gorge. Prior to the tours we work at clearing the area of black berry vines and grass so people can see the items of interest.

Have a wonderful Winter as we look forward to Spring!

~ Keith
kcwdoc@comcast.net





*Postcard perfect! A quiet place to reflect!
Thanks for the photo Bob Dobson*



*Gomer Evans restores the museum freight wagon.
Thank you Gomer.*



*Draghi coal car is restored and features a new sign.
Thanks Gomer.*

**NEW
FACE-
LIFTS!**



*The Israel's team-up on the front door
with new glass & curtains. Thank you it
looks great!*



*Steve Israel installs a classy new
door in the museum. Thanks
Steve.*



New signs for the museum.

HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS 2015



The lit up Christmas fire truck representing Black Diamond and the museum. Thanks Joe!



Christmas Lights by John Nadeau; Thanks John.



Christmas Hay Ride was a hit thanks to Gomer Evans.



*Tolga, owner of the Nutty Squirrel.
So good even in the Winter.*



*Shawn Olgesbee as Frosty;
Thanks Shawn*

100 Years Ago The Mike Miller Story - continued Chapter 3

(A fictional account based on Historical facts) ————— by Keith Watson

Mike Miller here – I emigrated from England through Canada to the United States in 1914 and was hired by the Pacific Coast Coal Company in Black Diamond.

My job is to tend the boilers at mine 11 that supply electricity to the mines water pumps, hoist, and other facilities in the mine itself and in the upper works of the mine plus the town. There are 11 boilers that need to be maintained. Of course the fuel is coal which fires the boilers which supplies steam to the steam engines which have leather belts, about twelve inches wide hooked onto the wheel of the steam engine and onto the wheel of the electric generator producing direct current to the needed places. My understanding is that people who have company houses in town can have electricity, which is generated at the mine, for 50 cents a month for each light outlet.

I asked my boss if mine 11 was the number of mines I opened so far and he told me that the number related to the area on the map numbered eleven. I was really comfortable working with the boilers and learning more about the assortment of makes and models that the company had installed. He also told me that the Pacific Coast Coal Company was part of a larger company named the Pacific Coast Company that owns many mines, railroads, wharfs up and down the Pacific Coast, and a fleet of steam ships. Coal is used in all of these areas as well as a need to deliver coal to local households, companies, and cities all the way from Alaska to Mexico. It looks like I have a job for life with all the business that the company is doing.

My fellow workers seemed to be from all over the world with many languages spoken and many customs to try to understand. Most of the men are in the process of improving their English. They all seemed to congregate at the local pubs after work and they liked to mingle at the train depot waiting for the next passenger

train. The train brought news from the outside world, outside Black Diamond, and I purchased a news paper called the Seattle Star to look for news from England. It looks like war is taking place all over Europe and I'm glad I'm in the United States and not part of any war. Most of the papers ads were for mercantile products from such places as the Bon Marche, Frederic & Nelson, shoe stores, and a Washington pharmacy named Geo. Bartell.

They also mentioned a place called Pike Place Market where you could purchase fresh vegetables, fruit, and products from the sea. I look forward to taking the Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad into Seattle to visit the places and see what else I can find out about America and Americans. Among the information in the newspaper was a note that the LC Smith Building is to be opened on July 4th which is the same day as the celebration of independence of the United States from England. I have mixed feelings about this celebration; I'm off that Saturday; should I remain in town or go to the opening and pay 25 cents to go in an elevator to the observation floor. The building has 42 floors and I just can't decide now.

There are several interesting items listed in an article about the Washington State legislature: one was the "Alien Residents Purchase of Lands Amendment" that would enable alien residents to purchase lands in the state. Yes, I would like to purchase land in the future. Another was the "initiative to prohibit the production and distribution of alcohol in the State". I think this would really affect the coal miners and their families. There is also an "initiative that would prohibit employers from requiring employees to work more than eight hours per day, except in agricultural employment and emergencies, and provide for extra compensation for over-time". These issues were to be decided



The Smith Tower under construction 1913.



The Seattle Star, January 23, 1915

on the November 3, 1914 ballot in Washington State. I wish I could vote.

I will look into becoming a citizen of the United States as well as keeping my citizenship of Great Britain. I don't know how to go about this but will start inquiring here in town.

There are many areas around town which I'd like to visit but first I think I would like to visit mine locations at Bruce, Franklin, and Ravensdale. The train goes to Bruce and Franklin and would be easier to get to than Ravensdale or I could walk the rails to the locations. Bruce is located across the way from Lake Twelve and Franklin is above the Green River. There are two churches in town the Catholic church, named Saint Barbara's, and the Protestant Presbyterian church. There are two schools, side by side, the wood school which is for the lower grades and the Brick High School. It looks like the school district has a good athletic program with basketball, baseball, and foot ball (soccer).

The Company has teams in baseball and foot ball (soccer) that play other mining communities. Sunday is game day and is much attended. The Show Hall is what I really want to discover. It's on East side of Main Street which parallels Rail Road Avenue and is on the hill above that street. It is next to the Barber-

shop and the Drug & Confectionery store. The show hall had a poster of the up-coming play "Merchants of Venice" and was going to be performed in 1915.

I took the opportunity to check the Bakery for the bread I had heard about. The bread is baked in a wood fired brick oven which seemed to make it taste especially well. It helps to get there early before they sell out. A walk from the Bakery towards the train depot brings me to the Pacific Coast Store. The store seems to have most everything one needs from food to clothing. They do take money for the merchandise but the people who are employed by the mine are able to receive credit for their pay and have an account with the store. My understanding is that the store building was moved from up the hill in a settlement called Lawson to its present location. How on earth they made that move is beyond me. The building is a two story structure with a basement that is on the down side of the hill. Maybe the move explains why the floor is rather uneven. It has a large safe in it and many shelves where the clerks can find the merchandise that one is looking to purchase. They have boots, shoes, pants, shirts, tobacco, soap, household goods and food plus a lot more.



The Merchants of Venice Poster

Continued in the next issue.



BDHS Receives Grant from 4 Culture

From letter dated January 29, 2015

by Keith Watson

It is my pleasure to inform you that 4Culture has awarded Black Diamond Historical Society \$2,000 per year for 2015 and 2016 through the Heritage Sustained Support program.

Your award is the result of a highly competitive process. This year's application review panel considered funding levels for many worthy organizations. They awarded funds based on a number of criteria specific to the program. We applaud you for being part of this successful group.

All 4Culture grant funds are made available through a contract process. Learn how to receive your funds by reading through our NEXT STEPS guide at the end of this email. If you have any questions after reviewing the NEXT STEPS guide, please contact Eric Taylor.

We urge you to contact your elected State and County leaders to let them know about your grant award and to invite them to attend your programs. They truly appreciate knowing about the great things you are doing to serve the public in their districts and will often help publicize your organization in their own newsletters.

On behalf of 4Culture, thank you for the work Black Diamond Historical Society does to present and promote diverse creative activities, community identity, and history for King County residents and visitors. Congratulations!

Jim Kelly
Executive Director



37 Die in Franklin Mine Disaster

Originally published in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, January 6, 2006 By Gordy Holt

Republished January 6, 2015 by Black Diamond History

One by one the graves were dug. They split the ground of cemeteries from Black Diamond to Newcastle, Renton and Seattle to hold the 37 victims of an 1894 explosion and fire that raged inside a Black Diamond hillside and is remembered today as the Franklin coal mine disaster.

Side by side in Renton's Olivet Cemetery lie John E. John and Evan D. John, a Welsh father and his son, just 18, a former Seattle newsboy.

The father, a company safety inspector, had gone in to rescue his son, a miner, and as smoke filled the mine they died together, nearly 1,000 feet down, the son gripped in his father's arms, a safety lantern lying nearby.

While memories wane and reports yellow, the old lamp today is the sole survivor. It occupies a special spot on the mantle of Marcia Lee Berg's Spokane-area home. She is the 72-year-old great-granddaughter of John E. John, and every now and then the old lamp comes to life long enough to help tell the story.

It's told through a tale written as a high-school senior thesis, "*The Legacy of the Lamp*," by the old man's great-great-great-grandson, Karl Berg, now a 20-year-old senior in political science at Gonzaga University.

Through the lamp comes a clue to the insinuations that hovered over the senior John's reputation in the days after the blast so many years ago.

John and I were inseparable while he was at the Franklin mine," Karl Berg has the lantern say in his Thesis. "As a tester he was responsible for helping ensure the safety of the mine and its workers. Would this terrible tragedy not have occurred if John and I had been down in the mine that day testing the air?"

Did John John's search for his son, opening doors that should have stayed shut, exacerbate the flames? And if an arsonist set the fire, as claimed by some, who was that?



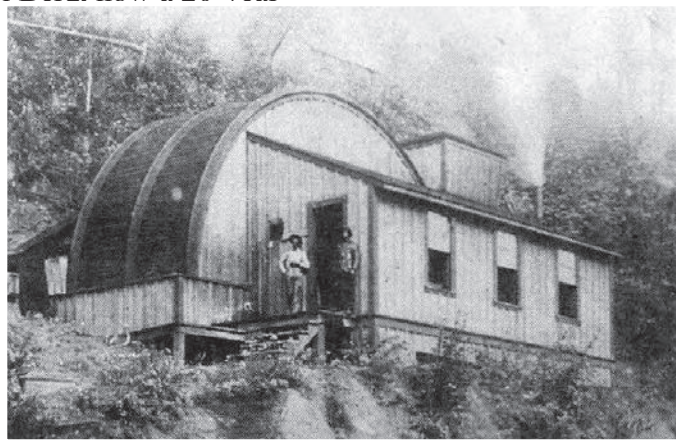
Lamp holds story of local mine tragedy: Father rushed to save son, died with him, 35 others in underground fire

Two days after the Aug. 24 disaster, under the headline "Fired by a Fiend," the mystery was reported this way by the *Seattle P-I*:

One of the pit bosses said this evening: "I have an idea who set ... the fire, but I won't say."

Why?

Cause the man I suspect is dead." And so it went. Photos of some of the 37 coal miners killed in the 1894 Franklin mine disaster. The list of



Two men standing at the fan house for the old Franklin coal mine near Black Diamond, circa 1894.

the dead included Italians, Swedes, Scots, Englishmen, Welshmen, a Pole, three "Americans" and 11 miners described as "colored."

Fingers were pointed then, as they are being pointed this week at the Sago Mine in West Virginia, where the details of a modern-day mine disaster—hardly different in result from the King County disaster of 1894—are slowly being revealed.

This kind of thing impacts families forever, I guess," Marcia Berg said.

Within hours after the Sago disaster left 12 dead, Marcia Berg was back in touch with JoAnne Matsumura, archivist at the Black Diamond Historical Society Museum, who has been researching the Frank-

lin mine disaster.

We just had to talk,” she said.

They first met when Karl was working on his senior thesis, and grandmother and grandson paid a visit to the museum. And brought the lamp.

After so many years of working with old books and newspapers I thought I’d never get to see anything real from that old disaster,” Matsumura said.

But there it was in my hand, the lamp, and the date on its bottom—Aug. 24, 1894.

History is my passion,” she said, “and it’s still quite emotional to hold an artifact from that far back, to get to see it. And to hear the story all over again.

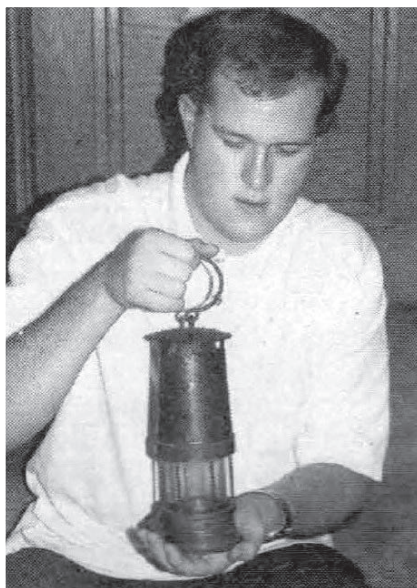
We all cried a great deal.”

P-I reports from the 1894 scene east of Black Diamond above the Green River Gorge left little to the imagination.

As the bodies began arriving at the surface of the main slope,” the story reads, “the excitement among the wives and mothers ... was uncontrollable. At 3 o’clock the last of the 37 bodies were recovered, and the people began to quite down. Many of them were completely prostrated with their violent grief and devoted their time to methodically caring for the dead.”

There has been and would be others. Two years earlier, just east of Snoqualmie Pass in Kittitas County, 45 Roslyn miners had died, and 11 more would perish there in a 1909 disaster.

According to a 1931 federal Bureau of Mines report provided Thursday by the state Department of Natural



Karl Berg holds the lamp found in 1894 near the bodies of his great-great-great-grandfather and his great-great-uncle.

Resources, the 37 miners who died in the Franklin mine explosion and dire were among 961 lives lost in state coal mine accidents—307 by explosions and fire—between 1892 and 1929, when the industry began to sag.

While a strip mine is still in production just east of Centralia, most of the tunneling ceased after World War II, Matsumura said.

We still have a lot of coal around here,” she said, “but between the danger, the cost and the lack of people who don’t want to work like that anymore, there is no more mining.”

Near the turn of the 20th century, those who did

want to work like that came from all over.

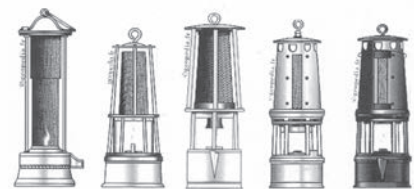
Karl Berg holds the lamp found in 1894 near the bodies of his great-great-great-grandfather and his great-great-uncle.

Among the 37 Franklin victims listed in the Aug. 25, 1894, edition of the P-I were Italians, Swedes, Scots, Englishmen, Welshmen, a Pole, three “Americans” and 11 miners listed as “colored.”

Two of the African Americans, described as “colored Masons,” were accorded Masonic burials. But the remaining nine were buried together in a trench with a single headstone to mark the place.

John John’s widow, Ruth, went on to support herself as a single parent by opening a boarding house in Black Diamond where Karl’s great-great-grandparents, Jemima and Elmer MacDonald, met.

Karl says the trigger for his research on the story was the lantern. “I’d heard all the stories,” he said, “but the real connection was the lamp. You can hold it in your hand and say, ‘Wow, this is it. This is really something.’”



Lighting a Deep Dark Mine

Smithsonian

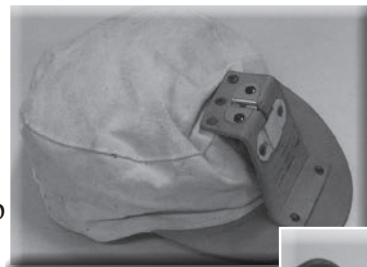
Originally published on <http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/mining-lights-and-hats>,
http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/object-groups/mining-lights-and-hats?ogmt_page=miners-safety-lamps and
<http://lindal-in-furness.co.uk/MinersLamps/minerslamps.htm>

The depth, the dark, and the dangers inherent in mining created a uniquely dangerous working environment for the miner. Miners faced death from collapsing mines, oxygen deprivation, and haulage accidents, with the specter of fatal lung disease remaining even after the miner had left the mines. But the most instantaneous and catastrophic loss of life was caused by explosions due to miner's lamps igniting methane gas.

A miner's light was essential to their labor. Without light there was no sight, no work, and no wages. But this essential light was also lethal. Open flames could ignite the inflammable gas especially prevalent in coal mines and mining explosions with hundreds of casualties was a common occurrence in the late 19th and early 20th century. Miners often carried open flames into the mines in the form of candles and hanging lamps, and later wore the open flames of carbide lamps and oil-wick lamps on their caps and helmets.

Before 1850, miners would use candles or small lamps that were hung from crevices or hammered into timbers near their work. From 1850 until around 1915, miner's headgear generally consisted of cloth or canvas hats with leather brims and metal lamp brackets on the forehead that allowed them to hang a source of light on the front of their cap. Caps served the ancillary use of protecting the miner's eyes from smoke or soot and their head from small bumps, but its main purpose was as a mount for their lamps.

Around 1850, the oil-wick cap lamp was invented in Scotland. Oil-wick cap lamps were shaped like small kettles—a small font that contained oil fueled a wick that was stuffed into the spout. The oil-wick cap lamp issued a bare flame, giving off enough light for miners to see what was in front of their face, but not much further. The oil-fueled flame was exceedingly smoky, and could easily ignite flammable gasses (mainly methane) found in coal mines. These lamps were worn on soft caps that offered little in the way of



20th c. Canvas Mining Cap & Lamp Bracket



Dunlap's Oil-Wick Cap Lamp, ca. 1840-1890

protection and were mainly worn for the convenience of having a light source in front of the miner's face.

The Englishman Sir Humphry Davy was already a scientist and inventor of national renown when he seized upon the idea of a safety lamp in 1815. Davy had performed numerous scientific experiments on all natures of gasses, and this experience proved useful in battling the flammable firedamp found in gaseous mines. Davy's invention was to surround the flame with a metallic mesh screen. Air could pass through the screen to fuel the flame, but if the holes in the screen were small enough, the mesh would cool the flame to such an extent that it could not ignite the gas surrounding the lamp. This design allowed the Davy lamp to serve as a test for the presences of certain gasses. If firedamp was present, the flame would burn with a blue "cap." The length of the cap would determine how much gas was present. Some lamps in the collection are these so called "test lamps" with marks in the lamp's glass used to measure the flame's cap. While flammable gasses were the most prominent threat in mines, asphyxiant gasses also presented a danger.

Davy's safety lamp helped with this issue as well, as miners could use Davy's lamp to check for harmful concentrations of carbon dioxide, which would extinguish the flame at a non-lethal concentration, alerting the miner's to unsafe working conditions.

George Stephenson was an English engineer who began to try to invent a safe lamp in 1815. Through trial and error he came upon a design that worked. He encased the lamp in a glass cylinder, which was capped with a metallic cover with tiny holes. This was covered with a metal bonnet to further remove the flame from the dangers of the flammable gas

Although safety lamps addressed the issue of mining explosions, they did not become as numerous as other mining lights for a variety of reasons. Many miners objected to using safety lamps because they were cumbersome, could not be worn on the cap, and gave a poor light, which all served to reduce a miner's

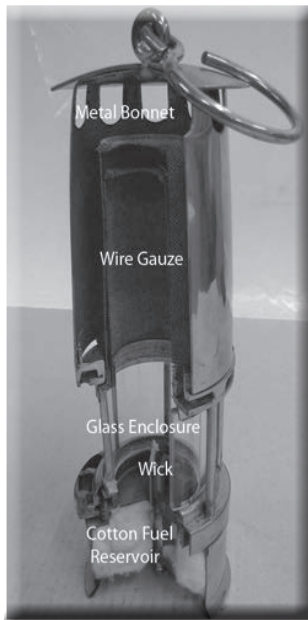


efficiency. Since most miners were paid by the pound, a reduction in efficiency amounted to a reduction in pay, and so the risk of an explosion was a chance miners were willing to take. Additionally, many miners objected to the false confidence instilled in many who used a safety lamp, and claimed that safety lamps obscured the real issue of unsafe working conditions and would hinder the development of improved ventilation needed in mines. Safety lamps had one unique advantage—they could safely burn off methane in mines which kept them in use by mine bosses even after the invention of battery-powered lamps.

Safety lamps were manufactured by a variety of companies from around 1815 until the 1930s, and incorporated elements of their design from Clanny, Stephenson, and Davy. Most of the safety lamps in the collection of the Division of Work and Industry include all three inventor's contributions towards a safety lamp—a glass enclosure around the flame for more effective lighting, mesh uppers to cool the flame, and metal bonnet to better protect the flame from being extinguished by gusts or drafts in mines.

Carbide lamps were developed in the 1890's. They were first used for carriage lamps, and were quickly adapted for mining. The lamp has a removable base which would be unscrewed and filled with marble-sized pellets of calcium carbide. A small amount of water was poured into a reservoir in the top part of the lamp.

A tap controlled the amount of water which would slowly flow from the reservoir into the carbide chamber below. The water reacted with the carbide to form acetylene gas, which rose to the top of the carbide chamber into a small tube, which led out of the chamber to a burner tip. This could be lit with a flint, and the flame produced was focused by a shiny reflector to give a bright white light, between four and six times brighter than an oil lamp or flame



*Cutaway of a Safety Lamp
Stephenson Style*

safety lamp.

The rate of water flow could be adjusted with the tap to vary the amount of gas produced and hence the amount of light, which would last for several hours. A miner would carry spare water and carbide pellets so that he could refuel the lamp whilst underground. Carbide lamps were easy to use and to maintain, and were very popular in mines, such as iron-ore mines, where there was minimal risk of explosion.

Carbide lamps were also worn on soft caps. The small carbide cap lamp had several advantages over an oil-wick cap lamp. The acetylene gas that powered the flame burned cleanly, relieving the miner from the smoke and soot from oil lamps. Also, the flame from the acetylene gas burned brighter than oil-wick cap lamps. Carbide lamps often came with a reflector, allowing this brighter flame to be directed and



*Simmons Carbide Lamp,
ca. 1915*

giving the miner a wider range of light. The drawback of the carbide lamp was that its open flame was still capable of igniting methane gas in mines.

The early 20th century was the deadliest time for miners in the history of the United States. In 1907, Monongah mines number 6 and number 8 exploded, killing 362 miners. A fire in Cherry Mine in Cherry, Illinois killed 259 miners in

1909. In 1913 Stag Canon Mine number 2 in Dawson, New Mexico exploded killing 263 miners. These were the three worst coal mine disasters in the U.S. history, prompting Congress to establish the U.S. Bureau of Mines in 1910. The Bureau turned their attention to the new technology of electric lamps in an effort to curtail accidents through the elimination of flames and an improvement in lighting. In 1915 the Bureau approved the MSA Edison Flameless Electric Miners' Cap Lamp, beginning the age of electric mine illumination that correlated with a steady decrease in mining accidents from the high reached in 1907. *Continued on pg 14*

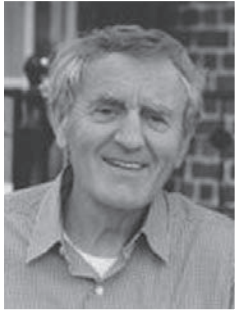


The "Crestella" carbide lamp shown above was manufactured by the Premier Lamp Engineering Co Ltd of Leeds.



*Backside of
Crestella lamp.*

Obituaries



R*alph Uhrig* 1933-2014

Society member, Ralph Uhrig passed away October 29, 2014 in Orinda, California. He was 81. Ralph was born and raised in Bellingham, Wash. After high school he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He then attended Western Washington State College where he met his wife, Betty. They settled in Northern California where Ralph was a teacher of wood shop, drafting and math, for 22 years. He earned his master's degree in education at UC Berkeley. A second career founded Uhrig Construction Company in 1980.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Betty, and children Heidi Guest, Katherine Merhige and Robert Uhrig; sister Marian Boe, also many grandchildren. He is greatly missed & fondly remembered



L*ois Thomas Zumeck Estby* 1917-2014

Lifetime society member, passed away September 10, 2014 at the age of 97. She was the only child of Evan and Florence Thomas, born June 23, 1917.

Her Welsh heritage was something she honored and proudly spoke of. Lois had a great recipe for Welsh cakes which she brought to the museum's Welsh Day for years.

Lois spent her entire life in the Black Diamond area where she met her first husband, Frank Zumeck, and they had two sons, David and Frank Jr. (Butch). Frank & Lois always worked together, first at the Zumeck family grocery store in the meat department – Hi-Lo IGA, and later with her son, Butch, at Frank's Meat Market. Both were famous for their smoked meats, particularly the Kielbasa. After Frank's passing in 1984, Lois continued to work up until she retired at age 84 at her son's meat market.

Later in life, a second chance at love bestowed her, marrying Ralph Estby in 1999. They had five

wonderful years together. All four men preceded Lois in death.

Lois set an example to her family and anyone who knew her for how to live fully and with dignity. She truly felt lucky & grateful. She leaves behind her beloved Zumeck and Estby family members, friends and acquaintances who were all touched by Lois's remarkable spark and spirit. A life well lived.



J*ennie Parkinson Johnson* 1916-2014

Lifetime society member, Jennie Parkinson Johnson passed away July 20, 2014. She was born to William and Ellen Parkinson in 1916, the youngest of six children. The Parkinson family lived in Black Diamond from 1924-1946. She

married Herbert Johnson in Seattle in 1948. They had 3 children and spent many happy weekends and vacations camping.

Her father worked in the coal mines along with her brothers. Jennie graduated from Black Diamond High School in 1933. This area was a big part of her life. Jennie's daughter, Judy Mote, thoughtfully shared her connection to Black Diamond.

Surviving Jennie are her daughter, Judy Mote and husband, her sons Dale Johnson and wife, Ron Johnson and wife, 8 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.



L*eo Dal Santo,* 1924-2014

Society member, died November 4th 2014 in Hillsboro, Oregon. He was 92. After his beloved wife, Barb, passed away three years ago, he was never quite the same. Leo was born into the Dal Santo clan of Joseph and Anna Dal Santo, in 1924. He grew up in Black Diamond and earned the status of coal miner during the mining era. Leo later made a career in the agricultural supplies industry, managing operations in Auburn, Sunnyside, Moses Lake and Olympia, Washington. He

finished his run in Hillsboro where he retired.

Leo was an enthusiastic hunter & fisherman. He also loved to dig clams and take his RV on excursions. He worked hard, and was a devoted husband and father. Leo was a lifetime member of the Black Diamond Eagles and a member of the Hillsboro Rotary. He is predeceased by his wife, Barb, and siblings Jules, John, Lynda and Ange. Leo is survived by daughters Cheryl Mulrony and Sherry Brandsma; brothers Joe and Roy. He will be missed.



Donations

We wish to thank the following for their generous donations to the Black Diamond Historical Society.



CULTURE
KING COUNTY LODGING TAX

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of:

Gertrude Botts, by *Cindy A Jessup, Paula Botts Ordonez*

Leo Dal Santo, by *Robert and Jodine Burke, Joe and Evelyn Dal Santo, Byron and Janie Parkinson,*

Rick Darby, by *Lois Darby*

Roy Darby, by *Lois Darby*

Lois Zumek Estby, by *M L Galvin, Don and Joan Malgarini, Daryl and Norine McCauley, Byron and Janie Parkinson, Donald Thomas, Muriel Waldo, Judy Young*

Esther Pennacchi Birch, by *Don and Joan Malgarini*

Bob Thompson, by *Don and Joan Malgarini*

Jerold Thompson, by *Don and Joan Malgarini*

ARCHIVE PRESERVATION FUND DONATIONS MADE BY:

HONORIAM DONATIONS MADE FOR:

Bill Bremmeyer, by N C Retirees

FIRE TRUCK RESTORATION FUND DONATIONS MADE BY:

FRANKLIN FUND

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS MADE BY:

Donna Marie Bortko

Michael Czaplinski

MINER'S DAY FUND

NEWSLETTER FUND DONATIONS MADE BY:

SPECIAL PROJECTS DONATIONS MADE BY:

Conrad Manufacturing (Dome Light Lens for Train)

WELSH HERITAGE DAY FUND DONATION MADE BY:



Thank you, City of Black Diamond for the operations support!

These donations are greatly appreciated. The Black Diamond Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the Law.



865

Number of guests
visiting the
museum during the
fourth quarter of
2014

Be Our Guest

by Dee Israel

There were visitors from 9 States: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, Oregon, Wisconsin; as well as Washington. There were also people visiting from other Countries, such as England, Canada, Poland and Ukraine.

Comments

Very interesting
Quite Impressive
Friendly volunteers
Great piece of local history
Well done
Wonderful display

Nice place
Emotional Historic Place
Vintage is awesome
Love this museum
Nice display of history
Thanks for all the hard work

Love the pants stretcher & accordion
Nice to see history of the past
Keep up the memories – history is wonderful

Lighting the Mines

Continued from page 11

Just like the soft mining caps that were used to hold oil-wick or carbide mining lamps, mining helmets were used to hold the new electric cap lamp. The lamp sat in a bracket at the front of the helmet, with the cord running along the helmet's crown, guided by a cord holder in the back of the helmet to route the cable directly to the battery pack worn on the miner's belt.

The protective helmets in the collection of the Division of Work and Industry of the National Museum of American History generally consists of two helmet types. Either the "Hard Boiled" brand of helmet made by E.D. Bullard Company in San Francisco, California, or the plastic Skullgard or Comfo-Cap manufactured by the Mine Safety Appliances Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Carbide lamps were still used with



hard protective helmets, but helmets that used electric lamps often had a cord holder to keep the cord out of the miner's way. A form of this helmet and electric lamp combination is still

worn today. Contemporary

lamps include improvements in battery life and weight, a change to LED bulbs, and breakaway or segmented cords to allow the miner to be less inhibited by his battery pack.



The lamp shown here is a Patterson type GTL9, manufactured by Patterson Lamps of Gateshead-on-Tyne. The lamp has two gauzes and an internal steel chimney. It is slightly unusual in that it includes a nipple on the bonnet to which a rubber tube and ball could be connected for gas testing. (<http://lindal-in-furness.co.uk/MinersLamps/minerslamps.htm>)



Patterson Lamp Deconstructed



Membership and Renewal Form (Renewals due August 1st each year)



BDHS Membership Fees

Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Day Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Eve Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Date of Birth (Optional) _____

If this is a gift, who is it from? _____

Annual Individual	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual Family	\$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual Business	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lifetime Individual	\$200.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lifetime Family	\$300.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletter Fund Donation	\$ _____	
Other Donation	\$ _____	
Total Enclosed	\$ _____	

New **Make Check Payable to: BDHS**

Renewal *Mail to:*

Cash **Black Diamond**

Check **Historical Society**

Ck # _____ **PO Box 232**

Black Diamond, WA 98010

BDHS is a 501(c)(3) Non Profit Organization (TIN 51-0170304)

For our records, on all checks please note purpose of check. (Dues, Donation, Memorial, etc.)

(Museum Use Only) Referred by: _____ Date: _____ Posted by: _____ Date: _____ (rev. 08/01/14)

WELCOME NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

By Jean Boston, Membership Chair

The Black Diamond Historical Society now has 321 memberships.

We are pleased to announce that during the fourth quarter 2014 we have acquired the following new memberships:

Janie Edelman
Hazella Peterson

We would like to thank the following members for renewing their membership this quarter:

Bonnie Bingham and family
Margaret (Peggy) Bullard
Diane Dal Santo
Lois Darby
Sue Dringale
Paul and Bev Goldsberry
Bill Kelley
Gerald and Nancy Kuzaro
Pete and Dahni Logar
Frank Manowski
Shari and Dick Mariotti
Dennis and Julianne McNeeley
Ted and Leona Myers
Janice Ranton
Southport Land and Commercial Company
R. Marie Theilken
Dave and Sue Watson
Fran Wold



The photo of FRANKLIN on the front cover looks along a row of coal miners' cottages toward the company store. A number of houses across the track from those in the picture were burned in a disastrous fire that swept Franklin a few years later. Join the historical society for its tour of Franklin on Saturday, February 7 & March 7th. For more info about the event, go here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1558518291057426/>



Franklin before the fire.



BULLETIN

Black Diamond Historical Society
P.O. Box 232 • Black Diamond, WA
98010-0232

NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

BLACK DIAMOND,
WA
PERMIT NO. 17

Address Service Requested



Do you like Black Diamond history?

Come join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter, and our blog!

www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory

www.twitter.com/BD_History

www.blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com

And make sure to tell your friends, too.



Our rotating display – this one was for Veterans Day. Thanks to Alison, Suzie, Judy, & Dee.

