

# ◆ NEWSLETTER ◆

## IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ *Thank You* 2
- ◆ *Did You Know* 2
- ◆ *President's Message* 3
- ◆ *Doings* 4
- ◆ *Special Visitors* 5
- ◆ *Volunteer Spotlight* 6
- ◆ *New Board Members* 6
- ◆ *Railroad* 7
- ◆ *Upcoming Programs* 8
- ◆ *A Day* 8
- ◆ *BD Coal Mines* 9
- ◆ *Mayoral Proclamation* 14
- ◆ *Grants* 15

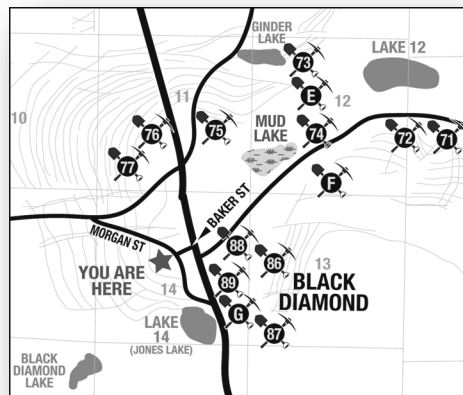
<i>Calendar</i>	15
<i>Obituaries</i>	16
<i>Donations</i>	18
<i>Membership</i>	18
<i>Guests</i>	19

**Banner:** *Looking east at Morgan Slope / Mine 11.*

## MORGAN SLOPE / MINE No. 11

*By Bill Kombol*

*This is the fifth chapter of the BDHS Newsletter series describing Black Diamond's coal mines. The first installment provided a brief history of the discovery of coal, followed by Mine #14, Mine No.2, and Mine No. 12 in chapters 2, 3, and 4. Each additional chapter describes the mines in chronological order.*



Mine 11 was the mine that made Black Diamond famous – the Granddaddy of them all. It was the biggest, deepest, and greatest mine in the town's history. It produced 6.3 million tons of coal accounting for 50% of Black Diamond's total 12.6 million tons over the 115 years from 1885 to 2000. But it also witnessed the deaths of 58

men.

And even after closing in 1927, for the next 64 years it remained the center of coal washing and shipping. Its original name was Morgan Slope until changed around 1912. After that, it was simply Mine No. 11, but most dropped the adjective and called it Mine 11.

By 1896, the Black Diamond Coal Mining Company (BDCMC) had been operating for a dozen years. Mine #14 was its first and

*Continued on page 5*



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

Black Diamond Newsletter is published three times a year by and for the members of the Black Diamond Historical Society. The society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. (TIN51-0170304).

**PRESIDENT** Steve Israel

**VICE PRESIDENT** Stacey Wehus

**SECRETARY** Laurie Evans

**TREASURER** Sherrie Evans

**Immediate PAST PRESIDENT** Keith Watson

#### DIRECTORS

Linda Arden

Greg Lichty

Don Mason

Jeff Montgomery

Janice Ranton

Susie Thompson

Crystal Goetz

Elaine Parks

**MEMBERSHIP** Laurie Evans

**EDITOR** Leih Mulvihill

**FEATURE WRITER** William Kombol

**PHOTOGRAPHER** Bob Dobson

#### ARTICLES

Black Diamond Newsletter invites articles for publication. Articles may be edited for style, length, and clarity. Please email the Society if you wish to submit an article, at [museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org](mailto:museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org)

#### CONTACT

Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum  
P.O. Box 1

32627 Railroad Avenue  
Black Diamond, WA 98010

PHONE 360-886-2142

#### WEB

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

[www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory](https://www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory)

[www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondMuseum)

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

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

#### HOURS

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

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

## DIGITAL MAPS AVAILABLE

*By: Sherrie Evans*



### CULTURE

With a great thank you to 4Culture of King County for approving a grant for us, we now have digital copies of hundreds of historical maps and documents that we can make available to the public. These include early maps of Black Diamond, Franklin, and some surrounding areas.

If you have an interest please contact our Archivist, Jeff Montgomery, by email at [bdhsarchive@gmail.com](mailto:bdhsarchive@gmail.com) or by calling the museum at 360-886-2142.

## DID YOU KNOW?

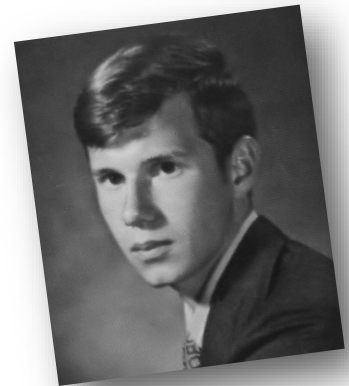
*By Sherrie Evans*

Mike Parkin has been a volunteer with our museum for years and takes care of mowing and treating our lawn and garden areas.

But, did you know that when he was just 17 years old he was presented the coveted Eagle rank by then Black Diamond Mayor, Vic Weston. He was honored at a presentation of the Boy Scouts Troop 477 at the Black Diamond Elementary School.

Then at age 18 Mike became the youngest councilman to serve in Black Diamond when he won the election by 5 votes! At the time he was also attending Green River College, being an assistant scoutmaster, working part-time and spending a lot of time studying!

Mike is the son of Bill and Elsie Parkin, and Elsie is also a long-time volunteer with the museum.



# PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

## A MESSAGE *from the* PRESIDENT



STEVE  
ISRAEL

It's always a pleasure to address our members to give an update on what's been happening. Our volunteers continue to make great strides in improving and maintaining our museum. Dennis Richardson and Ian Nitsche of the maintenance crew installed new shingles on the tool shed and wash house. The old roof was starting to leak. They also power washed the walkways and spread new beauty bark in the flower beds.

Projects that other crew members have been busy with were washing windows, weed prevention, gutter cleaning, and trimming of the plants. These projects were waiting for spring, and spring has arrived.

A few of the indoor projects consisted of building shelves for the docent desk, sanding and painting the child's desk, painting walls, and adding a mystery tool hunt in the blacksmith shop. They also completed the inventory of the tools that are in the tool shed.

We frequently have many projects going at the same time with the maintenance crew, archive department, design committee, and more. I am always amazed at how much activity there is on Thursdays. Besides the activity on Thursdays, many of our dedicated crew members are working on other days as well.

Most of the work I have mentioned here is necessary to maintain and improve the grounds and buildings. There is a lot more work done by volunteers that is not so visible, but important in keeping the society operational. Our officers and directors do a tremendous amount of work. Our archives department has been playing catch-up for several months and making great progress.

Another bit of news is the addition of an AED (automated external defibrillator). Doug Stern made a memorial donation in the name of his late wife, Alison Stern. These funds were used for the purchase of the AED. Thank you, Doug, for this important and potentially life-saving equipment.

Please stop by for a visit.

Steve Israel



# IN THE MUSEUM

*By Steve Israel*

The Miners Mercantile is a display of merchandise we have available at the museum for a small donation. Jim O'Rourke (pictured) built this awesome display cabinet that hangs near the docent desk. This is just another example of the improvements to our displays in the museum.



# WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

By Sherrie Evans



**Spring has sprung and we have been busy!**

**March 10 - Geology of Black Diamond.** Zach Pratt entertained 24 guests in our auditorium providing a wealth of information about our local geology. From learning about the plates under the ocean in the early years to the formation of the mountains, Zach definitely knows his stuff.

**April 14 - Mining the Memories.** We were honored and blessed to have special guests, Cory and Diane Olson, the authors of the Mining the Memories book, visit and sign copies of their wonderful book.

**April 27 - Charting of the Stampede Pass.** Zach Pratt was back with us again this time to tell the story of the origin and creation of the Stampede Pass.

**May 11 - Italian Heritage Day.** Lenny Folino and members of the Sons and Daughters of Italy were on hand to share the stories of the Italians who settled our town.

**May 11 - Cemetery Clean Up Day.** The community turned out for the annual cleaning of the historic Black Diamond Cemetery.

**May 19 - Scandinavians in Coal Mining.** Zach Pratt shared interesting facts about the Scandinavians who lived and worked in the Black Diamond area.

**Tours** - We continue to be quite busy with tours requested by home school groups, senior centers, social groups and families. It is always a delight to share our history with these visitors. Any group can schedule a tour by email or calling us; or now, they can be scheduled on our website: [www.blackdiamondmuseum.org/request-private-tour/](http://www.blackdiamondmuseum.org/request-private-tour/).



*Diane Olson*



## 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](mailto:museum@blackdiamondmuseum.org)) and we will be sure to update our records. Thanks!!

*Mine continued from first page*

most successful, while Mines No. 2 and No. 12 were problematic. Both had closed by 1895. Equally troubling for BDCMC was a man named Eugene Lawson planning a new mine in Section 13 on a slight hill just east of town. Like most odd-numbered sections of land, those mineral rights were owned by the Northern Pacific Railroad.

BDCMC desperately needed a winner. So like Lawson, they obtained a coal lease from Northern Pacific. Their new mine was situated on Section 11, due north of their Section 14 mine. However, the royalty lease agreement meant for every ton of sold coal, 15 cents was paid to the railroad. That expense would cut into revenue and squeeze profits. Morgan Slope had to be a success and Morgan Morgans, after whom the mine was named, would make sure of it. So would the McKay seam of coal being mined.

As highlighted in the story of Mine No. 12, the BDCMC mines were overseen by Morgan Morgans, a Welsh immigrant who came to the U.S. in 1846 at age 16. There he found employment in the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania. He moved west and eventually became Superintendent of BDCMC's California mine. Morgans arrived in Black Diamond to spearhead construction and permanently moved north from California in 1883. He was a man who got things done and was loyal to BDCMC company president, Pierre B. Cornwall, who spent most of his time in San Francisco or tending to the company's Bellingham investments

Not only was he superintendent, but Morgans also ran the company town with near-dictatorial authority, determining who could buy land and sell, to whom, and at what price. He controlled liquor, electricity, and medical care, dictated mine holidays, and authorized political rallies. Morgans, a respected territorial leader, was selected to attend the state convention, where he signed the State Constitution that took effect upon Washington's admission to the union on November 11, 1889.

The new mine was naturally called Morgan Slope, as the prior opening in Section 12 was initially Cornwall's mine. Morgan's name stuck, Cornwall's didn't, and Mine No. 12 closed in 1894. Morgan Slope was first mentioned in the

State Inspectors of Coal Mines report of 1895-96. "This is a new mine that is being opened on Section 11. The slope is sunk 450 feet in rock. It is well timbered and is in first class condition. The boilers were regularly examined and reports filed." The 1897-98 report continued with praise. "Morgan Slope has exploited the finest and most continuous seam of coal in the state, except that at Roslyn. The mine is well ventilated, and although several minor matters have been complained of, the management has always manifested a laudable desire to rectify any irregularities that might be called to their attention."

Despite the praise, coal mining remained a dangerous occupation. The first fatality occurred on the slope (i.e. the inclined tunnel that connects the surface portal to the workings underground). Fedoro Lodovitch, age 55, was killed when riding up for his noon dinner. The mine-cart coupling that connected the rail cars was in a very defective condition. It broke and Lodovitch was thrown out of the car and perished on June 6, 1898.

The first years of a coal mine are often lean. Large amounts of capital are dedicated to digging tunnels, developing gangways, laying rail tracks, installing ventilation fans, and building surface facilities to handle the extracted coal. Lots of money is expended and manpower employed. It's like building a road – the further it stretches the more coal that can be accessed, so production increases.



*One of the most famous photos of Mine 11, July 15, 1917, by C.Z.*

**MINE** continued on page 9

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Sherrie Evans

You might call them the “jacks of all trades” and just about every Thursday, and on some other days, you will find them hard at work around the museum. Dennis Richardson and his grandson, Ian Nitsche, take care of everything from painting, gardening, cleaning gutters, pressure washing, fixing lights, repairing displays and lots more.

Recently they laid new bark throughout the flower garden, which means they also made several trips up to Palmer Coking Coal to get the bark in Ian’s pickup. Ian doesn’t mind that since he just got his driver’s permit!

Dennis is a life-long resident of Black Diamond and if you get a chance to chat with him you will find there is very little history about this town and its people that he does not know. Ian has been a

“junior” volunteer with us since the age of 12! We appreciate all that they do. We often tell Ian that as he gets older he can look forward to becoming the president of our Society!



*Join us!*

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

By Sherrie Evans

Mark your calendars now for our upcoming summer time fun!



Puget Sound Welsh Association

**June 1 - Welsh Heritage Day.** The Puget Sound Welsh Association will join us for our annual tribute to the Welsh who settled our town, most of them working in the coal mines. Come and learn fun facts about Wales and sing along with our Welsh tunes! Museum is open from 11 am to 3 pm. The program will start at 1 pm. Welsh goodies and refreshments will be provided. “ymuno â ni” (Join us in Welsh)

**June 5 - Black Diamond All School Reunion.** 11 am to 2 pm at the Black Diamond Community Center. Always so much fun as we remember our school days (and crazy times) going to school in Black Diamond.

**June 8 - Maple Valley Days Parade.** Watch for our restored 1947 Ford Howard Cooper Fire Engine in the parade with driver Mike Androsko aboard.

**July 4 - Enumclaw Independence Day Parade.** A great opportunity to catch our 1947 Ford Howard Cooper restored fire engine driven by Mike Androsko.



**July 13 - Miners Day on Railroad Avenue.** Stroll up and down Railroad Avenue and visit a myriad of vendors and information booths. Follow the event on Facebook for more details including information on the pet parade, chalk-in art contest and other fun activities. Our “Hysterical Society” will be on hand for their annual skit.

**UPCOMING** continued on next page

# IT'S ABOUT THE KIDS!

By Sherrie Evans

One of the goals of the Society's Board of Directors and our Design Committee has been to create activities aimed at the youth that visit our museum. As always, the train and caboose tend to be the most popular; however, we have added several new fun areas and so far they also seem to be quite the hit with our little visitors.

**Coal Sorter.** Visitors can lift the chute causing the coal to go down the ramp and sort into bins based on the size. They can learn all about the job of coal sorting in the mines. They finish up by retrieving the coal that "went off to Seattle in the coal cars" and placing it back at the top for the next visitor.

**Bike Horn.** With a quick plunge the kids can hear an old bicycle horn sound. We can't say it is all that pleasant but it is what it was back then.

**Dynamite Box.** With a hard push down (and sometimes help from an adult) kids can see what it is like to set the dynamite and when they are successful the lights on the dynamite sticks will appear.

**Fire Truck Lights.** With an easy push of a pedal an entire row of lights are lit. This is an actual light box from the top of a fire engine.

**Kids Activity Table and Chairs.** This is our newest addition and already a huge hit. Little ones can sit and color a train coloring page or read books. We have also seen them just sit for a bit and really enjoy the table. There is also a vintage typewriter and telephone in the same area

where visitors can see what these "tools" were like in the days of old. It is fun to watch them try to use the dial phone.

**Treasure Hunt.** We have had this activity for years but as they come in the door they are greeted with an opportunity to participate in the Treasure Hunt. When they are successful in finding the four items located throughout the museum they come to the candy station (docent desk) to retrieve their prizes. We have regular treasure hunters as the items change every two months!

The best part of this story is that all of these activities, including admission to the museum, are always free!



**UPCOMING** continued from page 6

**July 24 - Puppet Day!** Registration is required. Visit our website at [www.blackdiamondmuseum.org/puppet-making-for-kids/](http://www.blackdiamondmuseum.org/puppet-making-for-kids/). Kids will hear a short story from our very own Puppet Lady, D'Ann Tedford, and then participate in an activity to actually make puppets. As always, our events are free. There are 2 sessions (1 - 2 pm and 3 - 4 pm) so be sure to register soon as there is a limit of 15 per session.



# MEMORIES OF SUMMER FUN

*By Laurie Evans*

## **Joe Androsko**

I lived behind the bakery so I spent a lot of time in the businesses along Railroad Avenue. My mom worked at the bakery so that was a favorite, along with the meat market. I spent a lot of time at the store with Mr. McDowell and did some work delivering groceries. I also spent time at the Garage with Carl Steiert and Eve Thomas. I loved working with cars.

A ramp was built over Rock Creek to get to the Chubb Lake Road. We used to take my Model T on that trip. Those Model T's could go anywhere. We all loved going to the show hall.

As a baby, my mom would put me in the lettuce crate next to the ovens at the Bakery. Mr. and Mrs. Eipper would watch over me. I wonder how many folks know that my grandfather, Joe Favor, loaned the money to Hadley to open the bakery.

## **Laurie Evans**

During summer, we would often wait impatiently for the fresh rolls to be ready at the bakery. At about 11 am, we would walk or ride our bikes and go get a hot roll out of the oven and take it home and spread it with butter and devour it—so yummy!.

We swam a lot at Lake Sawyer; right near the current boat launch. Sometimes we also swam at the pool at Flaming Geyser when my family attended events that were hosted there (it was a private resort back then). I have pictures of

swimming as a very young child at Lake 12, which was a favorite for my Evans' family – I have vague memories of swimming there with my multitude of cousins. They were all great swimmers but still looked out for us younger cousins.

Almost immediately after school was out for summer, swim lessons at Pete's Pool began. Each morning, we would catch the school bus and head for the pool in Enumclaw. Many mornings it was so cold that there was fog rising from the unheated pool. Lessons began and for many of us (the unlucky) we had the first round of lessons. The luckier groups went later in the morning when the temperature was at least more mild.

## **Sherrie Evans**

The ballpark! My Evans' grandparents lived right on the ballpark and I was there a lot - cribbage with Grandpa Gomer Sr. (who never let me win). Always in the ballpark doing something and lots of baseball. Extra trips to the Alice Davies Confectionary. I loved going to the library for the summer reading program with Mrs. McCloud. When I was older I used to take the bus down to the Green River Road and pick blueberries at Metzler's farm. Swimming at Lake 12 was always super fun. I remember taking lessons from Bob Campbell. I also remember when my dad was the Chief of Police and I locked myself in the back of his police car. I was out there a long time when either my parents saw me (or determined I had been there long enough).



**ALL CLASS REUNION 2024  
JUNE 5TH, 11- 2PM  
BLACK DIAMOND COMMUNITY CENTER**



The impact of Morgan Slope was seen in 1899 when output from BDCMC's two mines more than doubled to 227,548 tons from 1898's 109,000. That year Morgan Slope and Mine #14 were operated 312 days, Monday through Saturday, with Sundays and Christmas off. The nearly quarter million tons were produced by 367 employees, 294 underground, and 73 on the surface. Dividing annual tonnage by employees equals 620 tons per man per year or an average 1.93 tons of coal per employee per workday.

By contrast, the much larger Roslyn mine yielded 635,000 tons from 914 employees working 282 days yielding a daily average of 2.46 tons, nearly 28% more productive than Black Diamond. A fairer comparison was the nearby Franklin mines that in 1899 were owned by Pacific Coast Coal Company which also acquired Eugene Lawson's mine in 1898. Collectively the three Pacific Coast mines generated 2.01 tons per employee per workday.

A new century arrived in 1900 and so did Morgan Morgans' 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. BDCMC President, Pierre Cornwall turned 80 the following year. Compared to Black Diamond's aging management, the upstart Pacific Coast Company demonstrated a new market approach by controlling mines, railroads, and steamships thereby moving coal directly from mines to customers.

The Pacific Coast Company had a complicated parentage. Henry Villard organized the Oregon Improvement Company in 1881, eventually acquiring coal mines in Newcastle and Franklin. Through a blind trust, Villard gained control of the Northern Pacific Railroad and saw its completion to Tacoma. However, excessive costs led to a financial collapse and Villard lost control of his empire in 1884. Receivers were appointed to clean up the mess and on November 6, 1897, a new enterprise, Pacific Coast Company was formed to absorb the former empire. The firm united coal properties in Newcastle, Franklin, and Lawson, with the Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad, plus shipping operations based in California. Seattle became Pacific Coast's operational headquarters, but control remained with financial decision-makers based in New York.

For Black Diamond's coal miners and their families, the beginning of a new century still meant

arduous work underground with a hardscrabble life for women and children at home. There were few of today's modern conveniences. Things like electricity, central heat, sewage disposal, and clean, safe water were generally not available. But as Black Diamond prospered, so would its citizens.

Living in a company town delivered benefits, specifically housing miners and their families. A coal mine needed water, so BDCMC built water lines that also served homes. Water came from Mud Lake, then known as Beaver Lake, but wasn't treated. Carl Steiert noted that families often found bugs and polliwogs coming out of their taps, leading to typhoid outbreaks. Human waste was solved with an outhouse. Heat came from the coal/wood stove in the kitchen.

The transmission of electricity, developed separately by Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla in 1882-83, would eventually revolutionize towns like Black Diamond. The company initially built steam boilers to generate electricity and power hoists pulling coal cars in and out of the mines. Trolley engines, called motors operated on direct current (DC), began replacing mules and horses for moving coal from the working face to the slope. In time, BDCMC provided miners' homes with electric wire 'drops' for 50 cents per month per drop. The company also provided light bulbs. When your globe burned out, a replacement was obtained at the mine office.

Like everything in a coal mining town, even operating the power plant was dangerous. State Coal Mine Inspector, C.F. Owen disclosed, "Mr. W.S. McDonell, electrician, operating power plant that lights the town of McKay and Black Diamond, was killed by a dynamo October 12, 1904." Owen added, "Have not reported this in list of mine accidents as this plant is not used in the operation of the mines." When the Black Diamond Coal Miners' Honor Garden wall was installed, the Museum overruled Mr. Owen's decision and Mr. McDonell's was one of more than 1,100 names carved on the wall.

In May 1904, news of Pacific Coast Coal Company's acquisition of the Black Diamond Coal Mining Company was announced. The \$1,000,000 price was the largest deal ever made for a Washington state coal producer. BDCMC's Mine #14 and Mine 11 joined Pacific Coast Coal's operations in Newcastle, Coal Creek, Franklin, and

Lawson for a combined annual production of 750,000 tons. Its parent, Pacific Coast Company owned the sister companies, Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad, Pacific Coast Steamships, and Pacific Coast Railway of California, plus numerous docks and wharves that eventually stretched from San Diego to Nome Alaska.

The sale price was secured by a million-dollar mortgage from Pacific Coast to their coal mining unit. Eugene Lawson was reported to have helped broker the deal. P. B. Cornwall, the long-time President of BDCMC died that September. Morgan Morgans, Superintendent for over 20 years, passed away in December 1905. For Black Diamond miners and residents, the old guard had passed with a new corporate boss now running the show.

Each year Morgan Slope's main tunnel penetrated deeper underground at a 20 to 30-degree dip. The mine's double-track slope allowed loaded coal cars to be hoisted out of the mine at the same time empty cars went under. Every 500 feet down the slope, levels were developed and driven north and south. Levels were called out by number and direction so miners, management, and map makers could communicate clearly. "Sixth level south" was a typical indicator of the extraction zones.

The mine's reach extended north to below the Morgan Creek development on the Black Diamond-Ravensdale Road. The south extensions went only as far as Mine #14, as both mines worked the same bed of McKay coal. The two were separated by a fault, yet connected by a rock tunnel. A fault occurs when a seam of coal is dislodged by long-ago geologic forces.

Mine 11 eventually descended 7,000 feet along the slope to the 12<sup>th</sup> level. By 1913 it was reputed to be the deepest underground coal mine in the

country. The mine portal was 1,000 feet west of the Black Diamond Community Center but extended underground one mile further west. It reached a vertical depth of 2,000 feet or 1,400 feet below sea level. The mine workings are below the Lake Sawyer Regional Park at S.E. 312<sup>th</sup> Street.

As the mine got deeper so did attendant dangers. Because coal had been mined from the top (nearest the surface) down, pressure increased in later years. By the late 1910s, mini-earthquakes called "bumps" occurred with regularity. After coal was removed from an area, there was a natural squeeze between the mine floor and ceiling. As pillars supporting the mined-out rooms were pulled the roofs fell and the seismic impact rattled the surface. As Carl Steiert explained, "Bumps were scary. The town would shake. Sometimes it would be just a jolt or a slight tremor. But if they had a heavy one then you'd listen for the whistle. When the whistle blew you knew there was disaster."



*Mine 11's double track slope near the surface as a crew of miners prepared to descend underground.*

Of the 58 reported deaths at Morgan Slope / Mine 11, half, or 29, occurred over eight years from 1918 to 1925. A large majority of those were the result of bumps. Mine 11's last two fatalities were recorded on December 29, 1925, when W.R. Brunner and Emile Piquet were killed by a falling roof that initiated the bump. Thankfully, there were no deaths during 1926 when Mine 11 produced 235,157 tons of coal.

In March 1927, after 31 years and 6.3 million extracted tons, the mine that made Black Diamond famous closed for good. The New Black Diamond mine was its replacement. It was located 10 miles north along the Renton-Maple Valley Road near Cedar Mountain. The company commissioned special passenger rail service to and from Black Diamond, three times daily to

transport miners working three shifts over 24 hours.

Still, Mine 11, or at least the name lived on for another seven decades as a center of coal processing and shipping. When the underground mine closed, the extensive surface coal facilities remained. There were bins and bunkers for storing coal, plus warehouses, water lines, and high-voltage electricity, now supplied by Puget Sound Power & Light. A rail 'wye' or 'Y' allowed engines to turn around and spur tracks provided sidings for storing empty cars. There was also an onsite sawmill and washhouse where miners changed and showered.



*Smoke and steam rising from the power plant and burning coal slag are seen in the upper left in this photo of Morgan Slope, circa 1910*

Another surface asset was the huge coal slag pile that spontaneously combusted and burned for decades. The resulting red cinders became a valuable commodity used for road building, landscaping, and running tracks. The nearby Black Diamond-Ravensdale Road was originally constructed with cinders and early on called "red top." Over the years, nearly one million cubic yards of red cinders were sold from that stockpile.

Between 1927 and 1944, two different wash plants occupied a portion of the site – an Elmore and a Forester. In 1945, a new McNally-Norton wash plant was installed at Mine 11 and operated for the next 45 years. Despite its investments in mines and machinery, Pacific Coast Coal became a top-heavy and unfocused firm. A new

company, founded in Durham in 1933 was on the rise. It shared the same initials, PCC, but Palmer Coking Coal was nimble, family-owned, and aggressively expanded its reach.

During World War II, Palmer operated three coal mines – in Danville, Durham, and Occidental – and by 1946 was the second largest producer in King County. In 1947 Palmer secured a lease from Pacific Coast Coal allowing Palmer to mine surface and underground coal reserves on Franklin Hill. Through another lease, Palmer assumed operation of Pacific Coast's Mine 11 preparation plant and railroad facilities further expanding their market share. By 1958, Palmer acquired most of Pacific Coast Company's land and mineral assets in King County.

Palmer's assumption of the McNally-Norton plant came with an additional benefit – Frank Manowski, its chief operator for 32 years. The plant separated waste shale and rock from marketable coal. Waste material was discarded in a new slag pile that also grew to over one million cubic yards. That hill, now covered with blackberries and trees rises over 125 feet just west of Highway 169. The June 2020 issue of this Newsletter christened Frank Manowski as, "The Man Who Built a Mountain."

The plant's final act was washing coal from the John Henry No. 1 surface mine. In 1990 it was mostly dismantled, and the surrounding area reclaimed. Today, all that remains is the large metal wash tub and some concrete tanks. After 95 years, the coal-related functions of Mine 11 were finally exhausted. Yet even today, some still refer to the historic yard located at 31407 Highway 169 as Mine 11. ◆



*The Mine 11 preparation plant around 1953. The mine closed in 1927, but its surface facilities continued processing coal until 1990*

# CONNECTIONS

By Sherrie Evans

We frequently receive requests to conduct research to help family members locate information about their descendants. Sometimes we don't have much, but on other occasions we are able to provide the family with information they did not have which is such a joy.

In Fall of 2023, we helped **Bob Beers and Joanne Hawthorne-Livengood** write a story of their family for placement on our auditorium family wall. This was an important project because both are descendants of **Clarissa Davis**, *the first woman to arrive at the mining camp in Black Diamond*.

Clarissa's husband, David, was killed in a mine explosion in Nortonville, California. She came to Black Diamond with her son, Morgan. Morgan Davis received extensive burns in that same explosion and never again worked as a miner. From Seattle, they took the train, then a wagon, and finally walked the last miles. Clarissa was the first woman in Black Diamond. A couple of miners gave up their cabin for Clarissa and her two boys. She immediately started baking items for the miners that became quite popular. Soon after, two more ladies joined them in the cabin. All were supplying baked goods. They eventually built a house next to the hotel behind the train depot. The date of Clarissa's death is not known.

Clarissa's son Morgan first met Ann Elizabeth ("Ann Liz") Davies at the Davis Hotel. She was the eldest of 14 children of Thomas X. and Katie Jane Davies. The Davies family moved to Black Diamond in 1884 and lived in a tent behind the store. Thomas was an inspector for the Black Diamond Coal Mining Company. Katie Jane was the family matriarch who managed the Davis Hotel. They married in Black Diamond on October 10, 1906, and raised five daughters: **Evelyn Davis Hart**, married *Charles Hart* ~ **Verna Davis Thompson** married *John Thompson* ~ **Clarissa**

**"Clara" Davis Beers** married *Ralph Beers* ~ **Jane Davis Hawthorne** married *Bill Hawthorne* ~ **Merle Davis Santini** married *Elmer Santini*

Morgan, Ann Liz, and the five girls lived in a house behind the former Shell Station on Highway 169. The entire family gathered there for many years. Ann Liz was quite active in the hotel business, Lake 12, and several ladies' organizations in Black Diamond. Morgan was active in a few businesses.

Morgan and Ann Liz, along with two other associates purchased land at Lake 12 for development. They invested \$20K to build the resort which once had 12 cabins, a dance hall, refreshment stand, tool shed, three picnic kitchens, bath house, water slide, floating raft, and high dives. They also rented boats. The lot that the grandparent's cabin sat on, where many family celebrations were held, is still in the family to this day, and owned by Joanne Hawthorne-Livengood.

Both Clarissa Davis and her grandson, James Cartwright, are buried in the Black Diamond Cemetery. Her son, Morgan Davis died on October 31, 1946, in Renton and is interred with his wife Ann Elizabeth in the Black Diamond Cemetery. Thomas X, (1860-1932) and Katie Jane Davies (1862-1952) are also buried there.

## **And NOW, this story gets more interesting.**

Through our new website we were asked to assist a family with research. We located records and shared them. A few weeks later they showed up at the museum. After touring the exhibits and discussing the information, one of them saw a photo in "Mining the Memories" and noted the lady was their aunt. It turns out that lady was **Evelyn Davis Hart** (married to Charles Hart), one of Morgan and Liz Davis' five daughters. We explained they were also descendants of Clarissa Davis, and as a bonus we connected them with

*CONNECTIONS continued on next page*

Bob Beers. It was truly a blessing to provide this help.

Two weeks later we received a request to assist **Gina Rossi** in finding information about her grandfather Carlo Rossi. Gina shared that their family was related to the Fontana family (Carlo Rossi's sister married Carlo Fontana); with connections to Nola Kombol who married Chester Fontana. Gina and several members of the family visited us at the museum on November 25, 2023, and we had a surprise waiting for them.

With the help of Joe Androsko, we contacted Jerry Fontana, their cousin, who came to meet with them. Bill Kombol, a nephew of Chester and Nola Fontana, not only joined us but brought several important family documents. Both of these research efforts are great examples of how our work is not only important but rewarding. ◆



*In the photo above, left to right: BDHS Volunteers Joe Androsko and Sherrie Evans; Gina Rossi, her sister Carla Anderson; BDHS Volunteer Bill Kombol and the Rossi family's 2nd cousin, Jerry Fontana. Middle is Mary Oestreich with her baby Alex. Mary is the great granddaughter of three great grandparents who lived in Black Diamond (Dina Giaccharini, Carlo Rossi & Big Joe Watson). In the front is Gina's daughter, Yasmine Jahanmir, who now lives in Italy as a professor and is writing about Italy and Black Diamond.*

## HONORING THE BOTT'S

*By Keith Watson*



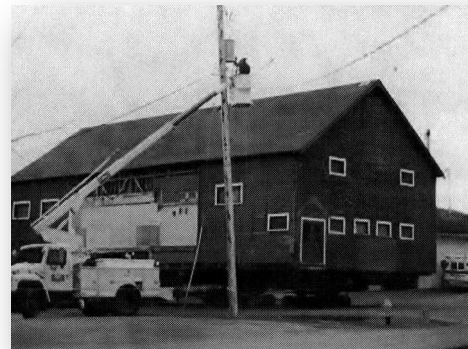
### **Howard Botts, Jr., Municipal Building**

The municipal building was constructed in 1968 to house the King County Library, Black Diamond Police and the City Hall offices. Howard Botts, Jr., distinctly served the City of Black Diamond and community as a Planning Commissioner, Council Member, and 26 years (1983-2009) as the City's Mayor. For his excellent leadership and wisdom the City recently honored Howard and named this historic building the Howard Botts Jr. Municipal Building as a thank you for all that he has accomplished for the City of Black Diamond.

### **Dorothy Botts Gymnasium**

In 1990, Dorothy Botts, as Community Center Director, was able to save the gym that was con-

structed in 1921 from being destroyed, by moving it from the Black Diamond Elementary School yard to its present location on Lawson Street. The Botts' granddaughter, the late Lisa Malabotte, was instrumental in the gym's installation details. Dorothy and her volunteers, along with grants and donations, saved the gym for the community. Her dedication to helping others for generations to come warrants the name on the building to be the Dorothy Botts City Gymnasium. Thank you, Dorothy!



# NEW SIDING FOR THE DEPOT

By Sherrie Evans



Last year we discovered that the siding on the south end of the back of our railroad depot building was failing and in poor condition. Since we are now a city, county and state landmarked building, we contacted the King County Landmarks Program, who conducted an on-site review. They agreed that the siding should be replaced.

The next step was to locate funding as the estimate was close to \$13,000 for the work. A Land-

mark Facility Grant through 4Culture of King County opened up in late 2023. We applied and were awarded the grant. It is hard to find the words to express our gratitude to 4Culture. Without that program our Society would be very hampered in our operations.

The project was completed by Cabrera Construction and we were impressed throughout the project with the quality of their work. ◆



*Bad Siding*

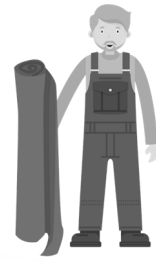


*Old Siding Coming Down*



*Thank You 4 Culture!*





*New Siding Going Up*



*Almost Done*



*Perfect!*



# Obituaries



***Carmel (Shaver) Camerini***  
***October 19, 1938 – December 11, 2023***

Carmel passed away from lung cancer and had been fighting hard against polymyositis since March 2023.

Born in Seattle, her family also lived in Yakima, Green Acres and Skykomish before moving back to Seattle. She graduated from Holy Names Academy (1956) and had a career at Boeing (mid 60s to mid 90s). She lived the majority of her adult life in Renton.

A busy woman, Carmel enjoyed roller skating, skiing, dancing, bowling, golfing, knitting, and Husky football as well as volunteering for Boeing Bluebills, Boeing Classic Golf Tourn., Special Olympics, Channel 9, AARP, and Locks of Love. She donated 160+ pints of blood and faithfully donated to Holy Names Academy.

She loved spending time in Maui and Whistler with her husband Don.

Carmel was preceded in death by her beloved husband Don; parents Herbert & Catherine (Noone) Shaver; brother Don, sister Cathy Legg. Survived by brothers Frank (Joan) and Paul (Sandy), sisters Barbara (Dave) Hamlin, Peggy Love, and Rebecca Aman; many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Carmel's life is being planned for spring.



***Daryl McCauley***  
***May 24, 1937 – October 21, 2023***

Daryl McCauley passed away on October 21, 2023, in Enumclaw, Washington. He was born in Seattle, Washington, on May 24, 1937, to Lew and Glee McCauley. He

grew up in Black Diamond for a vast majority of his life. For a short time, the family moved to Ellensburg. The family then came to Enumclaw

during Daryl's junior year of high school. Of course, in typical Daryl fashion, he was deeply involved with school events, working at Lake Wilderness and met and began dating his future wife, Norine. They graduated together in 1955.

After graduation, Daryl went to Central Washington University for one year. He then came home and started working at Enumclaw Food Center. In September of 1957, he and Norine were married. In 1959, Daryl was enlisted in the Army where he served for two years. In September of 1962, their first child, Nancy was born. Then in March of 1967, their second child, Michael was born.

Daryl worked for many years at Enumclaw Food Center. He then resigned and began working at Jim Fugate Ford. When he left there, he worked at Cascade Security Bank for a short time, and then went on to First National Bank of Enumclaw for the next 20 years until he retired in 1992.

Daryl was sincerely involved in his community. He served at Calvary Presbyterian Church as a deacon and a session member as well as a member of the choir. He was also involved as a city council member, a hospital board member, Helping Hands and lastly a member of the Enumclaw Historical Society.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Norine, his two children, Nancy and Michael as well as his sister, Marlene of Ellensburg and his twin brother, Dale (Alyce) of Enumclaw, his sister-in-law Carol (Gail) and brother-in-law Tom (Sheela) and numerous nephews and nieces. He is preceded in death by his parents, Lew and Glee McCauley and his brother, Bob.

We would like to sincerely thank Cascade Caregivers for all their help and support during his last days.

Donations can be made to Rainier Foothills Wellness Foundation and Plateau Outreach Ministries.







**Betty A. Manieri**  
**April 6, 1933 - June 9, 2022**

Betty A Manieri passed away on June 9, 2022, in Bellingham, WA, after a short illness. She is survived by brothers John Malgarini and Bob Malgarini, sister Joan

Traylor, and numerous nieces and nephews and grand nieces and nephews. Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Michael Manieri, mother and father, Esther and Victor Malgarini, brothers Victor Malgarini and Don Malgarini, sisters Vera Malgarini, Jessie Ponko, Lyda Hardin, Ruth Felkins, and Mary Kennedy.

Betty was born April 6, 1933, in Black Diamond, WA, and graduated from Enumclaw High School in 1951. After marrying Mike in 1959, they lived in the Green Lake area, and then settled in Lake City where they lived for many years. Later, they moved north to Sandy Point to live a retiree's life by the water. In 2008, they moved to Ferndale, where Betty remained until her death.

Even though Betty had no children of her own, she was a second mom to many of her nieces and nephews. Holidays at Betty's house were always feasts to remember. We will all miss her homemade ravioli, gnocchi, potica, and pies. Betty was also an avid gardener. There was no flower Betty could not grow.

Betty will be sorely missed by many, many family members, friends and neighbors. A memorial service was held at Moles Family Funeral Home, 5700 Northwest Drive, Ferndale, WA, on Friday, July 29, 2023, at 2:00pm. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Betty's name to the Ferndale Food Bank or your favorite charity.

**Trudi (Botts) Estby**  
**May 27, 1942 – Jan 20, 2024**



Trudi was born to Paul and Gertrude Botts and was raised in Black Diamond, WA. She graduated from Enumclaw High School and continued her education at the University

of Washington to become an X-ray technician.

Throughout her career she worked at the University Hospital, Swedish Hospital and then finished

her career at a primary care office in Burien, WA. Trudi married her high school sweetheart, Tim Estby on October 3, 1964.

Together they raised 3 children in West Seattle, Thomas Estby (Nichole), Tyler Estby (Charell) and Timary Daniel (Kevin). She was absolutely adored by her grandchildren Brad, Shay, Hannah, Kylie, Morgan, Bree and great grandchildren, Bella, Jacob and Mya. Trudi was the heart and soul of her family.

She was the very definition of unconditional love, support, acceptance and forgiveness. She will be deeply missed by her family and everyone who knew her.

A celebration of Trudi's life was held on April 6, 2024, at the Black Diamond Eagles, 32618 Railroad Ave, Black Diamond, WA.



**John Santo Malgarini**  
**October 6, 1924 - July 26, 2023**

John Santo Malgarini, a beloved figure known for his remarkable achievements on and off the baseball field, peacefully passed away on July 26, 2023, at the age of 98. His final days were spent on Bainbridge Island, Washington.

Born on October 6, 1924, in Black Diamond, Washington, John's life was characterized by his passion for baseball, his time served in the Navy and his devotion to his family. His nurturing spirit defined him as a caring and loving father. Arrangements were entrusted to Cook Family funeral Home of Bainbridge Island.





# BLACK DIAMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2024 Calendar of Events



Date(s)	Event	Location/Time
June 1	Welsh Heritage Day	Museum, 11 am - 3 pm (program @ 1 pm)
June 5	Black Diamond All School Reunion	BD Community Center, 11 am - 3 pm
June 8	Maple Valley Days Parade	Maple Valley, WA, 10 am
July 4	Enumclaw Fourth of July Parade	Downtown Enumclaw
July 13	Miners Day	Railroad Ave., 9 am – 4 pm
July 24	Puppet Day	Museum, 1 - 2 pm & 3 - 4 pm
September 1 & 2	Labor Day Celebration in Black Diamond - parade is Monday, Sept. 2, 10 am (starts on south end of Highway 169)	Museum open on both days. Labor Day Festivities in Ball Park, Ten Trails and Eagles (Car Show)
September 21	Flood in the Valley	Museum, 1 - 2 pm
September 29	Nortonville Stories	Museum, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
October 12	Appalachian vs. Black Diamond Coal	Museum, 1 - 2 pm
October 27	General Membership Meeting	Museum 1 - 2 pm
December 7	Enumclaw Christmas Parade	Downtown Enumclaw, WA, 6 pm
December 14	<b>Hometown Christmas</b>	Museum 10 am - 3 pm
December 15, 2024 - January 3, 2025	Museum Closed for Holidays (reopen on January 4)	Museum

## NEW MEMBERS

*By Laurie Evans, Membership Chair*

As of April 30, 2024, we have 331 members. Unfortunately, we did lose 20 members due to non-renewal, but are so excited that we gained 3 new business members and 12 individual/family members. Welcome our new members!!

**INDIVIDUAL**  
Teresa Cain  
Wayne Dal Santo

Pat Emerson  
Karen Meador  
Allen Petchnick  
Virginia Sager  
Edmond Shaw  
Marshall Trover

**LIFETIME**  
Annamarie Burke  
Robert Burke

### **FAMILY**

Nathan Jones & Family  
Daneel Kuzaro & Family

Thanks for joining the Society! It's because of our members that we are as successful as we are!

*Welcome* 

# DONATIONS

From September 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023, we received the following in donations

*By Laurie Evans*

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

### *In Memory of Barney Carnino*

D. Capponi

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

GENERAL FUND DONATIONS	\$ 930
NEWSLETTER FUND DONATIONS	\$70
FIRETRUCK FUND DONATIONS	

HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS  
MINERS DAY  
WELSH HERITAGE DAY  
ITALIAN HERITAGE DAY  
SCHOOL REUNION

We are so appreciative, honored, and blessed to receive these donations. They enable us to continue to support our efforts to keep history alive!

*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.

## Be Our Guest

*by Laurie Evans*

# 1152

*Number of guests for  
the period Feb 1 -  
April 24,*

# 2024

For the period February 1 - April 30, 2024, we welcomed 1,152 visitors (383 children and 769 adults). They came, not only from Washington State, but also from Alaska, California, Hawaii, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, and Tennessee. We love showing off our wonderful museum!!

### *C o m m e n t s*

“Love this place.”

“Amazing amount of history.”

“So cool! My 3-year-old loves trains.”

“Thanks for preserving all of this history!”

“Excellent collections which I have never seen in most of the museums. Good work!”

“Wonderful! So much fun to see our family history.”

“Love all the nice history.”

“This town and museum are so cute. Will visit again.”

“Amazing how things change over time.”

“Thank you! Love the irons and switchboards.”

“Cool to see the old high school things.”

“Awesome place!”





**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](http://www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondMuseum)

[www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory](http://www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory)

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

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

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

And make sure to tell your friends, too.

**JOIN US FOR WELSH DAYS**  
**JUNE 1ST, 1 PM**

