

# BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

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THE KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By  
Barbara Loomis

May is historic preservation month. This year's theme is "Preservation and Livable Communities." In celebration I look forward to hosting all of you at my house on Wednesday, May 26th at 6 p.m. for a pot-luck dinner and tour. Please R.S.V.P. 827-7194 or 823-4560 before Monday, May 24th. I will make a large pan of manicotti for us.

The reception at the Executive Mansion May 4th was well attended with preservationists from all over the state. It was fun getting reacquainted with Mary Lowery. I think she will be supportive of historic preservation. We were also honored by an appearance by Governor Lowery. He agreed to lend his name to the Washington Trust fall conference which is called the *1993 Governor's Conference on Historic Preservation*. Corey Kahler came in at about the same time and I was able to introduce him as an up and coming young politician.

May 10th we had a board meeting at my house. We will have these meetings the second Monday of the month. Anyone is welcome to attend. We discussed the booth at the Art Fair at Park Place this summer. Loita Hawkinson had called and offered some soda fountain artifacts for our booth. She suggested that we sell Sarsaparilla along with the lemons and peppermint candy and pictures. We tried the sarsaparilla at our meeting; it's a lot like root beer. Does anyone have a Polaroid camera that we could borrow? How about booth designs, any suggestions.

The city has agreed to let the Harris' at Shumway have the caretakers house. However, they want it moved by the end of June! The only way this is possible is if the city "fast-tracks" the permit

process including a decision about "significant features" at Shumway. In the Historic Overlay Zone (HOZ) the city designated both Shumway (the building) and the land that it was moved to as a 'significant feature.' The Harris' have been trying to convince the city of the fact that the land is not historic and should not be included in the HOZ. The city has received letters from both King County and the State Office of Historic Preservation supporting the Harris' claim, yet so far the city has not released the land from the HOZ. We have asked the city to allow as much time as possible so the Harris' can accomplish the move.

As president of the Kirkland Heritage Society, I have received a letter from City Manager Terry Ellis. He reprimanded me for judging people by where they are from, based on comments I made in the J.A. article about the caretaker's house. I agree that people should not be judged by where they are from; there are many people in this city whose roots are elsewhere in the country yet they care very much about Kirkland's heritage (Alan Stein is a great example). My comments were born out of an extreme frustration with the city over its disregard for preserving local history. I feel the city's track record speaks for itself with a number of specific examples in recent years:

1. Juanita Golf Course club house, a craftsman style building.
2. Central School (the fire was only in the roof).
3. Waverly School, a WPA project (against Waverly Committee recommendations)
4. Farm house ensemble on 99th, (representative of rural Kirkland)
5. Hale house was the first blacksmith's house; (request from family for family crest on the chimney and the front door was ignored by the city).

All were demolished following acquisition by the city.

Caretakers house at the Cemetery; proposed demolition, (currently the Harris' have a proposal to move the house to the Shumway property if an extension time is granted. It would certainly be desirable if this could occur.

City Hall expansion:

Bungalow and garage next to the Unitarian Church; proposed imminent demolition.  
Unitarian Church; proposed demolition at a later date.

Sue Carter's craftsman style bungalow, proposed demolition at a later date.

If these must be removed there should be a long range strategy for relocation.

The city has no real preservation program in place except for an Overlay Zone which is extremely restrictive and has limited incentives in place to offset restrictions. The recently completed Historic Resource Inventory, the starting point for a potentially valuable tool for implementing a successful preservation program, has been set aside until some future date when the Growth Management Commission (GMC) will review the document. I have offered the KHS to assist the GMC and city staff in identification and evaluation of historic properties. We could arrange a tour of one.

Both the KHS and the city of Kirkland should be positive forces in preserving the heritage of the community. The KHS should be willing to support and assist the city in developing a preservation program that meets all of our needs. I have requested that three of four members of our board meet with Terry Ellis and staff (Planning and Parks) to develop a strategy for how this can be done most effectively.

I hope we can work together to save the best of our past for the future, to truly make this a livable community.

See you at my house on the 26th.

JOIN THE K.H.S.

## MINUTES: APRIL 28 MEETING

Nine people attended the meeting held at the Kirkland Congregational Church. The meeting was

opened by Barbara Loomis and those in attendance signed in.

The minutes from the March 31 meeting were submitted and approved.

Treasurers Report: The checking account balance stands at \$25 and the savings balance at \$5122.

Oral History Project: Matt McCauley reported on his experience with the K.O.H.P. Approximately 10 people completed the training and their goal is to interview at least two people each. Matt was commended for all of his work publishing *Blackberry Preserves*. The membership enjoyed Alan Stein's column, "The Years in Your Ears."

Kirkland Arts Festival: KHS has reserved a space for a booth at the Kirkland Art Festival on July 9 and 10. Matt McCauley offered to construct the 10'x10' booth. Corey Kahler will work on a photo display and Melanie Pate will work on labeling photos and historical items. The membership discussed options to draw attention to the booth. It was mentioned that this would be a good time to offer the walking tour brochures to the public. It was also suggested to set up an old fashioned photo scene where people could have their pictures taken wearing old clothes, etc.

Kirkland Cemetery: Habitat for humanity was approached for interest in the caretakers house. The organization is involved with the new structures and not old renovations. The owners of the Shumway Mansion are interested in moving the house to their site and using it for a residence. more time is required for them to organize this project. The house will be torn down at the end of June unless someone can move it quickly. It was suggested to the members that each person contact Terry Ellis and Lynn Stokesberry to voice their opinion on saving the house. Alan Stein offered some documentation that the caretakers house might have been a 1938 WPA project.

Northlake Unitarian Church: The city has purchased the church and it will use the upstairs for offices as City Hall expansion is completed. The bungalow to the west of the church will be torn down. The church will eventually be torn down.

Book Project: Matt McCauley shared his preliminary outline of the Kirkland history book. it will have 26 chapters; each approx. 1-4 pages in length. he will continue working on this project through the summer.

Reproduction of Photos: The problem of reproduction rights to KHS photos was discussed.

A solution was not reached, only a suggestion that the photos be copied again through a different photographer and that an agreement be signed regarding additional reproductions and ownership of the negatives.

**Program:** Alan Stein, highlights from his research indexing issues of *The Eastside Journal*. The membership enjoyed a very interesting presentation by Alan Stein as he took us back to the 1940's and 1950's. Alan shared some of Kirkland's history as it unfolded in back issues of that newspaper. Thank you Alan.

Board meetings will take place on the second Monday of the month at Barbara Loomis' home. Meetings will start at 7 p.m.

The next meeting will be on May 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Loomis' home. It will be a celebration of the fact that May is Preservation Month and will be a pot-luck and tour of the 1889 Loomis home. There will be no business meeting that night--RSVP by May 24.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Transcribed by Patricia Stupfel, Secretary.

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### *Journal American* Kirkland Essay Contest

The JA is inviting Kirklanders to write a 100 to 200 word mini-essay on what you like about Kirkland and what one thing you think would make it even better. All who enter will be entered in a drawing for a gift certificate from a Kirkland restaurant. The deadline is June 4. Mail essays to: Kirkland Contest, *Journal American* Newsroom, PO Bx. 90130, Bellevue, WA 98009, or FAX to 635-0603.

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### Corey Kahler Elected To National Group

KHS Vice President Corey Kahler was recently elected National Committeeman at the Washington Young Republican Federation Convention. Corey, a recent candidate for State 45th District Representative, will represent Washington at Young Republican National Federation meetings, beginning this June at a convention in Charleston, WV. Of his election he said, "This is a great honor. My main goal will be to accurately represent the Young Republicans of Washington State on a national level, to ensure that the party broadens its base, becomes more unified; and to use this position to encourage young people to become more involved in the political process and their community."

## The Years in Your Ears

By  
Alan J. Stein

June 15, 1927

Dear Sis,

It was such a pleasure hearing from you again. I'm so glad that things are going well for you at your job, but I still can't fathom how a pretty young woman like yourself can live alone in a city the size of San Francisco.

Our summer is off to a fun start already. Ed and the kids and I took part in an auto-caravan to the strawberry festival down in Bellevue. The paper said that there were 125 cars involved, but it sure seemed like a lot more to me. Anyway, we all drove there for "Kirkland Day." We had a big banner for Kirkland and we were all tooting colored horns. We were so well received that when we all pulled in a crowd of handsome young men gave out three resounding cheers for Kirkland!

Of course, seeing all those automobiles got Ed going again about wanting a new car. He keeps trying to tell me that even though the cannery has been automated there is no chance of him losing his job. But, like Mamma used to say, you can't be too careful. I'm not about to see him spend six or seven hundred dollars while we've got a perfectly fine car already. He keeps bringing it down to Blau Chevrolet because they've got a new pressure-washer, but I know he's down there gawking at the latest models.

We're sure looking forward to when you travel up north next month on your vacation. That new park at Juanita Beach I told you about is opening at the end of the month. Ed and I drove by it recently, and it's a honey! It looks like a regular little Coney Island! They've even got a 5000 square foot maple dance floor. Who knows what kind of nice people you could meet there on a warm summer night?

Before you get here though, I will warn you that things might be jumping when you arrive. It seems that Sister Aimee may come up from Los Angeles for a revival meeting. Now I grant you, when we went to California a few years ago to visit Auntie Marge, we saw Sister Aimee's temple and I was moved to tears. It was so beautiful. But after what happened last summer, I can't for the life of me understand how anyone can trust that woman. From what I've read in my magazines, she's far from being as lilly-white as she led people to believe.

Nonetheless, we're anticipating your visit. I sure wish I could convince you to move out of the city and come live up here, but you're strong-willed like poppa, God rest his soul. But I have to tell you, up here you can still enjoy the hustle-bustle of the city, and still live in a nice small community like we grew up in, back East. They're paving the ferry slip, so going into Seattle is getting easier all the time, and I doubt that you can rent a house down there for \$20 a month. Besides, with the Navy building that new base across the lake, you might get lucky and find a man in uniform in your future!

Well, I could go on all day, but we'll have to talk more about this when you get up here.

Love and kisses,  
Mary Jo

### The Cover: A Maypole Dance at the Central School

The event seemed to be quite a big deal in circa 1900 Kirkland, as is evidenced by the sizable crowd of spectators.

The first Central School occupied the present site of Kirkland City Hall on what was then Bold Street, now called First Street. Built in the "boom days" of 1890, the school housed both elementary and high school grade levels.

In 1904 a larger school was constructed on the site by Mr. J.G. Bartsch, the father of George Bartsch of steamboat operating and building fame. That school housed elementary and high school grades. located upstairs the Union 'A' High School operated there until the 'new' high school building was completed on Waverly Way, in 1928. Of course, the Waverly building served as a high school until L/W was completed and it served as a junior high from that time, 1950, until it burned down in the early 1970's. The Central School was rebuilt once more in 1935 and continued as an instructional facility until 1969. Many of today's senior Kirklanders have vivid memories of attending high school classes at that historic site.

**BLACKBERRY PRESERVES** is produced by the Kirkland Heritage Society, 304 8th ave. W., Kirkland, WA 98033, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland's heritage. Matthew W. McCauley, Editor. For more information call 823-6838.

## A MERE thirtysomething YEARS AGO:

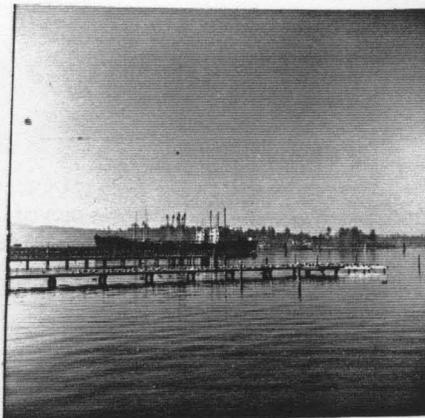
*Blackberry Preserves* has tended to concentrate on the very early history of the area, so I thought it would be interesting to take a look back at a more recent era.

These photos were taken in the early 1960's by my father, William J. McCauley. He said they were definitely taken before 1964, since that is the year I was born and after that happened he didn't have any free time to drive around town and take pictures again until 1982. I'm sure these shots will jar a few memories.



The pilings from the old Houghton ferry slip, used during World War Two.

Another of the many old docks that once extended out from the shipyard/tank farm area.



View looking south, Yarrow Point in the background beyond the freighters.



*Another view of the Central School*

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