

Blackberry Preserves

The Journal of the
Kirkland Heritage Society



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Kirkland Heritage Society

President's Message

By

Corey Kahler

Summer is finally here and KHS is busier than ever. Our membership rolls are growing and the range of activities in which we are involved has expanded, too.

We will have booths at both the Kirkland Festival of the Arts and the Day at the Lake, again this summer. We will talk more about these events at our May 29 meeting, 7:00 at the Kirkland Congregational Church, but we do need volunteers to staff the booth, help with set-up and tear-down, etc. Things should go a bit smoother this year, since we have now done this booth routine a few times. We have also talked about limiting items for sale to pre-paid copies of our historical photographs and, maybe, drinks. This should also help streamline things and eliminate hassles.

On other fronts, Bob Burke has completed the survey of historic structures for the city of Kirkland. This document represents an incredible amount of work and Bob deserves a great deal of thanks for his efforts. Bob's professional planning expertise, along with numerous other skills, are an enormous asset to our organization.

As many of you know, the city of Kirkland is currently accepting design bids by various firms for the Waverly site (at Waverly Way and Market Street--where Union 'A' High /Kirkland Junior High stood until it burned in 1973). Our own Lorraine McConaghy is giving a presentation to city officials about the site's history, so it can be factored into the

designs the firms will present. The KHS research team, which included Lorraine, Alan Stein, Barbara Loomis, Bob Burke, Matt McCauley and myself, came up with some interesting photos, maps and other materials related to that site. We were happy that the city is interested in the site's history and are only too glad to provide whatever help we can. Remember, one of our major goals is to assist government and private groups within the community when they need historical information. We are flattered that we were asked to help.

I have to write something about Alan Stein. Alan has just one microfilm reel to go and indexing the old *Eastside Journal*--except for a few hard-copy bound volumes--will be complete. Alan has spent most of his evenings for over a year now down at the library reading and indexing these papers. Were it not for Alan this project would have flopped, since most who volunteered to index never finished what they started. Thanks to Alan, the public now has access to an enormously valuable tool--the database--for researching the Eastside's past. No less than Seattle historian and *Seattle Times* columnist Paul Dorpat has already told Alan he plans to incorporate the database for future research for one of his many writing projects. Matt McCauley also says Alan and the database have helped him on many occasions when researching his *Kirkland Courier* column "A Look to the Past." Great job, Alan!

Speaking of Matt McCauley, congratulations are in order. He was accepted by numerous law schools--including Vermont School of Law, the nation's top environmental law school--and, luckily for us, he has enrolled at the University of Puget Sound/Seattle University School of Law. He also received an academic scholarship, which will pay over one-third of his tuition. Matt says he will continue producing this newsletter after school begins in August. Just what we need, another lawyer! (only kidding). This summer, Matt is working for 48th District Rep. Bill Reams, as his campaign manager. Congrats!

I hope to see you at our next meeting and don't forget our next board meeting will be on July 25 at my house, 12819 - 133rd Pl. NE. Board meetings are open to non-board members and anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Also, if you're interested in serving on the board, we have a few open spots, so be sure to come. Remember, board meetings are always on the final Monday of the month and regular

meetings are always on the final Wednesday. Mark your calendars!

COREY KAHLER

The Years in Your Ears

By

Alan Stein

(As usual Alan gives us a fictional account of a conversation that could have happened in Kirkland's past--Ed.)

July, 1957

What's so funny Grammy?

Oh, nothing in particular, Connie. Why don't you come over here and look at this. Mr. Johnson let me borrow it. This is what the local newspaper looked like when I was about your age. Now be careful, because it's very delicate.

Wow! Look at that, 1915! That's even before Mom and Dad were born. It's ancient! Oh...I'm sorry Grammy...I didn't mean...

Don't fret it, child. Let's just say this paper is "on its years." Look at this. Here's a big article on the suffrage movement. Do you know what that was?

Did it have something to do with freeing the slaves?

Well, not exactly. This article's about women getting the right to vote. When this was printed, it hadn't happened yet but as you can see, there were many women in town at that time working hard to get it. In fact, your great-grandma...

Look, Grammy. Kids went to school dances even back then.

Where's that...Oh, my goodness. I was at that dance! It was around Halloween. Listen to this! "Lights were turned out and two ghouls entered, wailing and moaning and we found the cold, clammy hand that had been put into ours was a glove stuffed with sawdust and dipped into cold water." Oh, my! I remember that! And as I remember that I was so frightened that I ran outside and almost slipped in the mud. My best friend Elizabeth laughed so hard that she started to cry.

You got scared by a glove? That's silly.

You have to realize, Sweetie, that this was before TV. Things were much simpler then. Those dances and get-togethers meant the world to us. Besides, when you're my age, you'll probably have a hard time explaining to your grandkids how scared you get when you see those monster movies at the matinees.

But those are really scary!

I'm sure they are, Sweetie. Oh, here's a name I haven't seen in years. "Miss Rhoda Crabb fell from a truck driven by Harry Langdon and one of the wheels passed over her foot, causing a painful, but not serious injury." I haven't thought about Mr. Langdon in years. He used to own a store up at the Juanita intersection. He was such a nice man. A little too nice at times, though. He was a little too generous with credit, and that eventually drove him out of business.

Hey, look at this! Dr. E.C. McKibben--hours 1 to 4 by appointment.

That's right, Sweetie. Your father was a McKibben baby just like you were.

Here's an ad for guitar and mandolin lessons. Didn't you say that Grandpa used to play the mandolin.

No, he played the ukulele. Most everybody I knew back then played some sort of instrument, and if they didn't, they knew how to sing. Like I said, we didn't have boxes in our living rooms to entertain us, so we had to make due with what we had. Your Grandpa used to take me out in his canoe and croon love songs to me on summer evenings. And he didn't have to swivel his hips like that Elvis character.

Well how could he Grammy? He was in a canoe.

You know what I mean, young lady. Heavens, will you look at this. "50 x 180 homesites on Market Street for \$300!" I'll have to show that one to your father. Oh, and a schedule for the Atlanta! You know, as convenient as the bridge is, I'll always cherish my memories of riding boats across the lake. And here's an article on a lecture being given about "the school problems that confront us." Well, I guess there are some things that don't change.

Grammy, do you think if I saved a newspaper right now, that I would enjoy it when I get to be your age as much as you're enjoying this one?

Why, Sweetie, that's a wonderful idea! You do that! Take this week's paper and store it away somewhere dry and out of the way. Forget that you even kept it. Someday, years down the road, you'll stumble on it by accident, and I can guarantee that you'll enjoy it as much as I'm enjoying this. And do you know what else? When you do happen to find it, you'll wonder why you kept it, and you're going to think back and remember your dear Grandmama who loves you so much.

Kahler Named To Marymoor Museum Board of Trustees

KHS President Corey Kahler was recently approved as a trustee to the Marymoor Museum board of Trustees. Kahler said he is excited about the appointment and hopes to improve communication and cooperation between Marymoor and KHS. Kahler will also serve on Marymoor's publications committee, which he says plans to release a second volume, offering 101 more of Lucille McDonald's best columns, edited, like the first volume, by our own Lorraine McConaghy. Kahler said the first volume proved a bigger success than many had anticipated and, while a decision has not yet been reached, he said he hopes the second volume will be available soon.

McCauley Speaks to Seniors' Group

I was privileged to speak to the Kirkland First Baptist Church's "Keenagers" seniors' group, on June 9, at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Arvid and Betty Wigen, of Juanita. This enjoyable luncheon talk was enhanced by the fact that many of the group's members are long-time area residents and contributed their own recollections to the discussion. I would like to thank the Wigen's and their group for a very enjoyable afternoon.

From Kirkland City Councilmember Debbie Eddy

On June 2, we received a very nice letter from Debbie Eddy, thanking us for adding her to our newsletter mailing list. I thought I would share part of her note here. She wrote, "...This area has experienced such tremendous growth in such a short period of time--KHS's efforts to preserve information about how we got here from there

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enriches us historically and culturally. Sincerely,
Debbie Eddy."

New Members

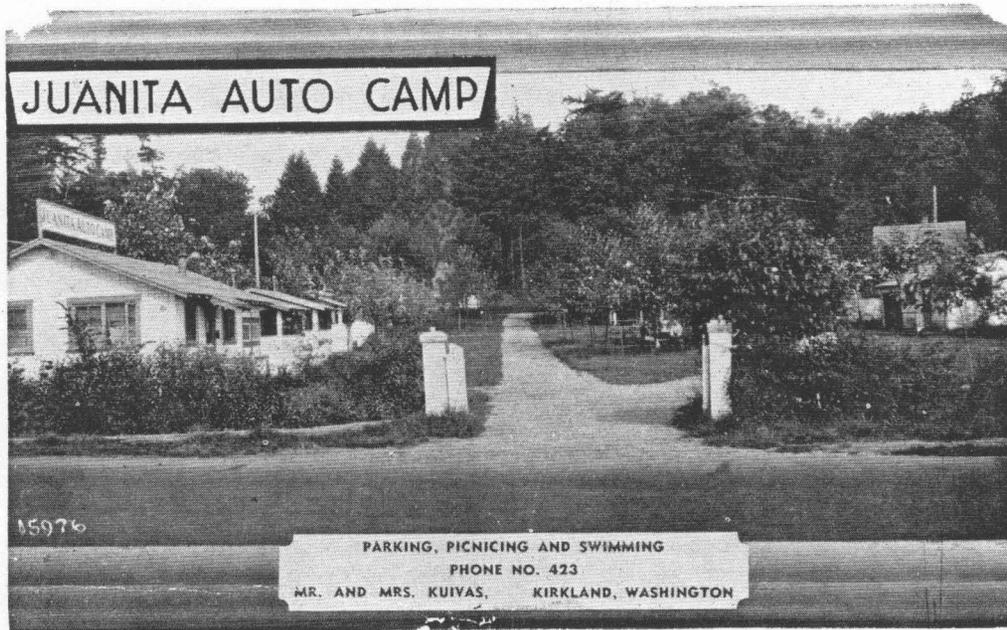
We welcome several new members this month. The first two, Teddy Overleese and Donovan Tracy, both returned membership forms provided to successful wooden truck bidders, at the recent Kirkland Chamber of Commerce auction. We welcome them aboard and thank them for their support!

Our third new member is Angie Eggers, of the "Little Finn Hill" section of South Juanita. Angie enclosed a nice and interesting letter with her membership form, as well as this rare shot of Kuivas' Juanita Auto Camp, located off today's 98th Ave. NE near the office of Dr. Clark, D.V.M. She provided some interesting information on the camp, its owners and the Little Finn Hill community's history. I look forward to meeting Angie soon, her photo and memories will make a great subject for my *Kirkland Courier* column, "A look to the Past." Thanks a lot for the information, Angie. I hope to speak with you soon!

A New Look for B.P.?

Yes! My dad is so happy that I got into law school--and the prospect of my wife, Ashley, and me moving out of his house in three years--that he and my mom bought us new computers and my in-laws bought us a new printer. The change comes at a good time. I recently had a request from a senior BP reader that I increase the font size, since she had some difficulty seeing the old, small font. I can't believe that hadn't occurred to me earlier and I do apologize--I plead thoughtlessness! My new system should provide a neater, and easier-to-read format, but I really do appreciate your comments and if I can do anything else differently by all means let me know. You can call me at 823-6838 (hm.) or 910-6114 (cell.).

Next Meeting: June 29, 7 p.m. at the
Kirkland Congregational Church!



Juanita Auto Camp--Photo Courtesy Angie Eggers

May Meeting

Our May meeting was especially enjoyable. Sue Carter opened her 1913 home to us, which was built by noted Kirkland builder and former mayor, John Wester. We covered quite a bit of ground and several new ideas were discussed, including some interesting ideas presented by Dr. E.C. McKibben, Jr. on obtaining a permanent location for all of our materials. He pointed out the fact that we could become a more valuable community asset if people knew there was a location at which they could access our photos and other items.

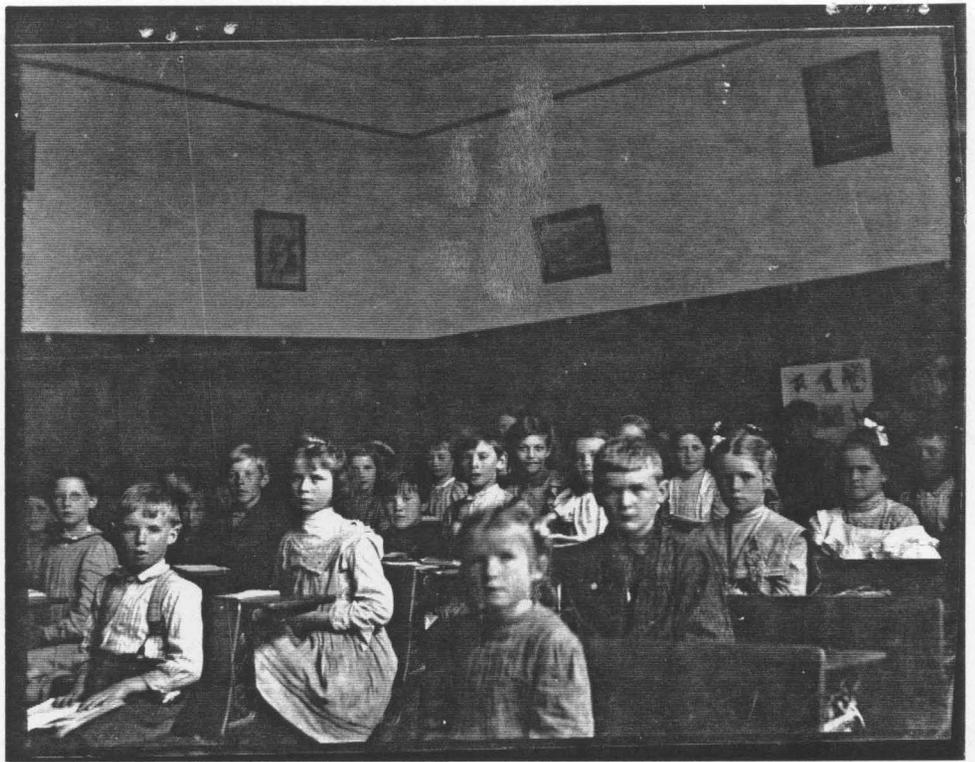
We also heard an interesting presentation by Alan Stein about some of his Eastside Journal research, including some stories he unearthed about John Wester.

Again, a big thanks to Sue for holding the meeting at her house, we all really enjoyed it!



Ready for Summer Vacation--1900!

This rare view was taken from inside of the old Central School, around 1900. The school stood at the site of today's Kirkland City Hall until it was demolished to make way for the final Central School, built during the 1930s as a WPA project. *Photo Courtesy Mrs. Mabel Barrie.*



Blackberry Preserves is produced by the Kirkland Heritage Society, 10635 NE 120th, Kirkland, WA 98034, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland's past. Matthew W. McCauley, Editor. For more information call: 823-6838 or 823-6232.

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