

Blackberry Preserves

The Journal of the
Kirkland Heritage Society



President's Message
by
Corey Kahler

Thank you to Colleen Granger for opening her home to us and hosting our last meeting. It was a real treat to be able to see what a great job she has done in preserving her c.1912 home, and for those delicious pies.

Congratulations to Matt McCauley for his recent appointment to the Marymoor Museum's Publications Committee. Matt joins fellow KHS members Dr. E.C. McKibben, Lorraine McConaghy and myself on that committee. Among the many projects we will be working on is the second collection of Lucille McDonald columns, which, like the first, will be edited by Lorraine. We will also be working on some projects that will be spotlighting the unique history of all the towns on the Eastside. I will fill you in on the details as things progress.

Lastly, I want to thank you all for bearing with me during the extremely busy campaign season. As most of you know, I am managing Representative Bill Finkbeiner's state senate campaign and things have tended to get both busy and time consuming. Thankfully, there are

also six weeks to go until the general election!

The Years in Your Ears
by
Alan Stein

(Alan's column provides a fictional conversion, that could have occurred in Kirkland's past, based upon his extensive research of 1918-1960 newspaper stories, Ed.)

Oct., 1937

Frank! Buddy, it's good to see you again! What's this I hear about you getting a new job down in Portland? You lucky dog, you. So tell me all about it. All I heard was that it had to do with that company your brother used to work for. What? Chief Foreman? Wow! Well, it couldn't happen to a nicer guy. Unless, of course, it's me. Ha! Just kidding!

Oh, me? Ah, what's to say about it. What you're looking at here is your standard broken leg. I've spent the past couple weeks moving between my bed and this chair. I guess I shouldn't complain, though. As Ellie told me, 'thank goodness you're not a horse!'

Oh I knew you had to ask. This is so embarrassing. I wish I could say that I got it doing something heroic, but what happened was this: Remember how I told you that I was going take my kid to see the Husky game? Well, he loved it, and when we got home I thought I'd impress him with some of the moves I remembered from back in high school. So, here we are running around the yard, I get the ball, fade back, do some fancy dodges, and end up tripping over the dog.

That's right! Laugh, Mr. Chief Foreman! Fortunately, the dog walked away without a scratch, but do you know what the worst part was? There I was lying in pain on the sidewalk and I look up and there's my kid as white as a sheet. Right away I could tell that he felt partly to blame. So I had to bite the bullet and try to calm him down without showing that I was in agony. The things you have to do to be a father, eh?

Speaking of Nate, did I tell you that he's writing an essay for school about the history of Kirkland. Yep, he's been talking to Harry French, and in turn Harry has referred him to some of the old-timers in town. You should hear

some of the stories he's been told. He's been taking good notes, and every time he goes to talk to someone, he comes back and tells me the tales. He's heard things about the area that I didn't even know about. In fact, I think he's up talking to someone on Rose Hill right now.

Oh, which reminds me! Remember when I saw you last, it was when that guy got shot up on Rose Hill. Well do you know who it was?

Well, remember last year when you and Joe and I went fishing, and when we got back and started divvying up the catch, that hobo came along and begged us for some food! Right! That guy! And Joe gave him a few trout and he thanked us. Right! That's the guy!

So you probably remember that he was pretty harmless, right? A little touched, maybe, but harmless. Well, the cops went up there thinking that he was this escapee from some asylum back in Pennsylvania. According to them, he came at them with an ax, so they plugged him.

Well, it turns out that he'd been living up there in a tar-paper shack for five years. So right off the bat, they

hadn't investigated very well. And from what I heard, most of his neighbors thought he acted a bit queer, but they said that in no way was he a menace to the community.

So anyway, a lot of people were in an uproar, and for good reason. They had a big indignation meeting up at the Rose Hill clubhouse, and the upshot of it was that the Deputy Sheriff resigned. People wanted the dismissal of the two Seattle Detectives that were with him, but you know big city cops. They're not going to listen to us out here. They think we're a bunch of rubes.

Hey, before I go on, my throat's getting dry from all this talking. Could you do me a favor and get me a glass of water from the kitchen. Oh, very funny! Yeah, you're just helping out a crippled old man. It's not like I asked for my shawl or anything. Hey, I think I hear Nate coming in the door.

Nate! C'mere boy! Why don't you tell some of your stories to Mr. Th ... Nate? ... What's the matter, son? ... Oh ... Oh no ... Come over here, son ... there, there ... these things happen ...

Oh, Frank. Harry French just passed away.

An Oral History Workshop In Kirkland!

By

Lorraine McConaghy

Much of our local and family history is tucked away in personal memories, fragile and impermanent. The Kirkland Heritage Society invites you to take part in a day-long workshop to learn the techniques of tape-recording oral histories. We encourage you to reclaim and preserve those precious memories.

Whether we want to learn about family traditions and folkways, Great Aunt Bella's songs or Grandma's lacemaking, changing land use at Totem Lake, or the political history of the Houghton Community Council, we need to get beyond the documents and record firsthand experiences. We need to gather memories, record songs and folktales, and videotape activities from kitchen to garden to workshop.

Please join us at the Kirkland Library on Saturday, October 15, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. We'll discuss the important

issues and practice the skills of oral history, review and critique some videotaped interviews, and view an oral history training film from the University of Maine. KHS will be kicking off its 1994-1995 oral history interview project with this training, but we certainly encourage *everyone* to attend who is interested in learning about this research technique.

We will break for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30, and you are welcome to either bring a brown-bag lunch or visit any of the nearby restaurants.

Please phone Lorraine McConaghy, at 827-2927, to pre-register for this workshop. Each participant will receive an oral history manual, and a set of handouts dealing with legal and ethical issues, interview evaluation, and so forth. The workshop cost will be \$10 for each participant, payable at the workshop in cash or by check to the Kirkland Heritage Society.

Educators, students, heritage society volunteers, family historians, journalists, folklorists and linguists, come meet one another at a convenient Kirkland location, and spend a day with this wonderful and rewarding research

technique. Any questions? Phone 827-2927.

Dr. Lorraine McConaghy is a Kirkland Heritage Society board member and a University of Washington history professor. A recognized authority on Eastside history, she has authored numerous scholarly works and articles, and has led several oral history projects.

Next Meeting: Wed., Sept. 28

Yikes, the newsletter is late again, but, as usual, our regular meeting is scheduled on the final Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm, at the Kirkland Congregational Church.

Our committees have all been quite busy and this will be a good chance to hear about all of the exciting new developments. Our Planning committee heads, **Bob Burke** and **Barbara Loomis**, have released their survey of Kirkland's historic structures and the City of Kirkland has expressed great interest in their information. There are also several other exciting discussions underway with the City, including a possible historical display in City Hall's new Peter Kirk room.

East Side Journal

Play Miniature



ON

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MINIATURE

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MONDAY EVENING

CELEBRATE



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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