

Blackberry Preserves

The Journal of the
Kirkland Heritage Society



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Presidents Message

By Corey Kahler

Our next meeting will be our annual elections and we will be electing a new President, therefore this will be my last presidents message.

I want to thank those of you who have been so supportive of me and the vision that I have for the Kirkland Heritage Society. We had a lot of work to do over the past year and a half and I feel that we have been very successful. Two of our biggest achievements have been re-establishing our relationship with the City of Kirkland achieving a mutually supportive and good working relationship with them, in addition to our relationship with Marymoor Museum. Marymoor is working very hard on achieving their goal of being a regional museum and resource for the Eastside and as part of this goal we now have a number of members involved on their board of directors as well as serving on various committees.

One other success that we have enjoyed recently is the state wide recognition that some of our members have brought to KHS. Matt McCauley and Alan Stein have honored our community and organization with professionalism and quality. Matt received the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation's communications award for the excellent news letter that he publishes for us every month and for the many newspaper articles he's authored on Kirkland's past. Alan Stein was honored by the Association of King County Historical Organizations for his many hours of hard work entering the *Eastside Journal* into a data base at the Kirkland Library. This

has made our history more accessible and will positively impact many generations to come. They have not only helped us achieve our goals but have brought KHS to new levels of respectability and achievement

Thank you again everybody for making this year such a big success and I look forward to working with the new president in the future.

1995 KHS Election

By

**The KHS Nominating Committee:
Sue Carter, Barbara Loomis and
Laura Westlund**

At the April 26 meeting our committee presented a slate of candidates for board of directors positions. In recruiting people who want to serve we considered the following:

- KHS Participation
- Commitment to KHS' mission
- Experience
- Areas of interest

BOARD POSITIONS

We will be filling the positions of President, Secretary and Member at Large (a newly created position). Terms are from July 1, 1995 to June 30, 1997 and there should be a personal commitment to devote the necessary time and energy to the position if elected.

VOTING PROCEDURE

- All paid members present at the meeting are eligible to vote.
- A secret ballot listing candidates alphabetically will be provided.
- Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

- Ballots will be counted by three people who are not running for a position.

CANDIDATES

President: Bob Burke
Alan Stein

Secretary: Barbara Loomis

At Large: Loita Hawkinson

Be sure to attend the May 31 meeting to vote.

**Tales From the East Side
Journal**
by Alan Stein

This month's article is from the March 29, 1967 issue of the East Side Journal. It was written by Shirley Lindahl, and describes the life of Harry Kean. What amazed me about this little biography was all of the noteworthy events that Mr. Kean witnessed or played a part in, both in and out of Kirkland. I also enjoyed the fact that at the age of 82, Mr. Kean was still very active in the community.

**'Settlement Across Lake'
Recalled 55 Years Later**

After spending half of your lifetime singing in the church choir, perhaps it is time to retire and sit among the congregation on Sunday morning.

This was the recent decision of Harry Kean who had been a member of the Kirkland Congregational Church choir for 41 years. Active in a number of local organizations, this genial 82-year-old has a wealth of stories to tell of early days in this area.

"I arrived in Seattle in March 1911 and recall looking across the lake at the little lakeside settlement of Kirkland. Took the ferry across and looked the

countryside over and decided to buy some land there. Burke and Farrar had opened a section on Rose Hill, there were no roads just cleared lines where they had cut the trees to survey. I bought this piece of land on what was called Sheffield Street, now 116th N.E."

Coming here from Warren, Pa. with a spirit of adventure, he arrived in Seattle just by chance as the railroad offered settlers rate tickets to several west coast cities. Living at the YMCA, his first job was unloading railroad cars of cement for \$2 a day. This was not to his liking and he soon found office work as a clerk with the Ford Motor Co.

During 1912 he built a small house on his Rose Hill land, but being single he did not live in it permanently at that time; however, it made a nice weekend place for his Mountaineer Club friends to gather. In his house today he has a wooden bench he made as his first piece of furniture that year.

Always wanting to be neatly groomed, he used to hike down the hill to catch the ferry, but before reaching the dock he would stop at a certain hollow log where he had hidden a shoe brush and a hair brush for a last minute touchup.

Although the dreams of Kirkland as a steel mill city had died before Mr. Kean arrived, many remnants of those days were still in evidence. All the streets on Rose Hill had English names given them by the British-born Peter Kirk. Old-timers in the area still affectionately call some of them by their original names like Piccadilly (7th Ave, and N.E. 87th), New Castle (132nd N.E.) and Sheffield (116th N.E.).

Slater Ave. is located on what was once a railroad right of way that existed

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for a short time to connect with the Northern Pacific line east of Juanita. The steel mills were to use this and even built a passenger station where the Johnson Chevrolet co. building is now located. The brow of the hill at that point was the scene of several small stores and a two story Steel Works Hotel.

The main route from Kirkland to Rose Hill was straight up the hill on Piccadilly. Travel to Redmond was by a dirt road that extended east on Kirkland Ave. The first macadam-type road in the area was N.E. 70th called the State Aid Road since it was constructed with state funds; however, it was also given the name of Blacktop Road.

A trip to the Yakima Fair changed Kean's future for while attending the fair, he took his meals at a nearby home. He was particularly attracted to one of the daughters of the family, Grace, and in 1915 they were married in a home wedding in Yakima. Grace Kean came to Rose Hill as a bride and resided here until her death in 1959.

During World War I Harry Kean joined the Naval reserve and was serving as an electrician on a transport in the middle of the Atlantic when the war ended. He completed one more trip before he and his wife returned to the West.

For a short time they lived in Chehalis and were participating in the famous Armistice Day Parade in 1919 when the I.W.W. attacked the paraders in the "Chehalis Massacre". He also admits that he received his only traffic ticket in Chehalis.

"I was driving there from Seattle on a rainy night. The road was very bumpy and the oil lamps on the old Model T kept bouncing and getting wet. Just as I

had reached the city limits they had gone out again and the police gave me a ticket for not having proper lights".

Returning to Kirkland he purchased a tractor, the only one in the area, and did custom work with it for the next 15 years. He recalls one of his first jobs was forming the terraces at Kirkland Junior in 1922. It was his tractor that dug the basement for the Women's club two years later.

"I remember plowing and discing a large Japanese truck garden where the Juanita Golf Course is now located. There was also a truck garden at the site of Tradewell and the City Hall for many years. With the hoist on the tractor I put up many steel beams in buildings here including the gymnasium at Kirkland Junior High".

For one year he worked for Puget Sound Power and Light constructing the right-of-way for the new lines from Snoqualmie Falls. During World War II he again worked as an electrician, this time in the shipyards. At age 63 he spent a year in the Aleutians as an electrician at Attu and Adak.

From 1930 to 1939 Harry Kean was a member of the three-man School Board of Kirkland which included three elementary school Central, Rose Hill and Northup and Kirkland High School. During this time Ivan Travis, who recently retired from the University of Washington was superintendent and Carlos Scott, who recently retired as assistant superintendent, was hired as principal of Rose Hill School to begin his long career in this district. One of the most well-liked teachers of that time was Miss Laura Miller, long a personal friend of the Kears.

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Social life on Rose Hill for many years was focused on the Rose Hill Community Club which was formed in 1912 as an improvement club. One of the first projects undertaken was to get the county to clear the streets of stumps to make travel easier. The hall built by this group served for over 50 years and burned down a few years ago. There were few cars in the early days and all the entertainment for the community was centered at the clubhouse so it was the scene of many dances, shows, card parties, dinners and even a few plays. Mr. Kean is still one of the original members who is still active in this group.

The American Legion has also been one of his interests for many years and he served as commander in 1927 when the local group met on a boat moored near the Kirkland dock.

"The old Fort Jackson was a surplus World War I boat and we fixed it up with a dining room and a dance hall but it finally began to leak and we had to come ashore".

Currently he holds several offices in the group and is responsible for the rental of the Legion Hall. For eight years he was institutional representative for the Cub Scout Pack No. 451 sponsored by the American Legion and is reported to be the first Cub Scout group in America.

Other organizations in which he had been active are the Congregational Church and the Masonic Lodge. Recently he became a member of the Toastmasters and he enjoys the company of oldsters in the Progressive Club. If this sounds like a busy schedule you should see the sizable garden he also finds time to care for.

Music has been a big part of his long life for he has been singing in choral

groups ever since he was a boy soprano. His first opportunity with a group in Kirkland was in 1925 when a community chorus was formed to put on a cantata. The new High School music teacher, Florence Polson, was asked to direct it and she has remained in Kirkland helping others enjoy music through the years as Mrs. Elton Gildow.

Times may have changed the local surroundings for Harry Kean but nothing has altered his joy of living and his cheery good humor is enjoyed by a host of friends and neighbors.

**Next Meeting:
Wednesday, May 31
7 pm at
Kirkland Firehouse #26
By
Barbara Loomis**

We will have our annual meeting at the new Kirkland Fire Department Museum, located at 9930 124th Ave. NE. Battalion Chief Rex Lindquist has collected photographs and artifacts since the 1970's which are on display at the station and depict the history of the Kirkland Fire Department. Some of the equipment he has saved was used over 60 years ago.

Do you know where Kirkland's first fire station was located in 1915? The building still stands in downtown Kirkland. Come to the next meeting to find out the answer.

Membership

We welcome two new members to KHS:

**Lynn Oliver
Meg Davis
Hazell Russell**

Kirkland Historic Tour Brochure

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The first historic Kirkland walking tour brochure was prepared about ten years ago and now needs to be completely updated. At the April membership meeting, Bob Burke was authorized to apply to the King County Special Projects Program for funds to update the brochure and print 3-5000 copies for distribution. Bob will also contact two local Kiwanis clubs for support. The estimated cost is \$3000. Kirkland Chamber of Commerce members will donate time helping with graphics and KHS members will donate photographs and research. If you would like to help, call Bob at 827-6550 (wk) or 828-4095 (hm).

Bungalow and Craftsman Homes Subject of April Program

Members and guests at our April meeting enjoyed a presentation by Lawrence Kreisman, which included slides and even bungalow poetry.

There will be two opportunities in October to learn more:

- Northwest Arts and Crafts Exposition, October 6-8th; and
- Bungalow and Craftsman Home Tour through Viewpoints, 1995 Seattle Architectural Tours, October 8, 1995, 1-4 pm

Marsh Mansion Gets New Owners

The *Journal-American* reported on May 23 that the Marsh Mansion, located at 6604 Lake Washington Blvd., has been purchased for an undisclosed sum after a four year period during which its previous owners have been involved in bankruptcy proceedings.

The property was a part of Harry French's land claim that was purchased in 1905 by Ludwig Marsh (the grandfather of KHS member Jerry Marsh).

One of Ludwig Marsh's sons, Louis, graduated from the University of Washington in 1917 and soon went to work for a brand new aircraft manufacturing concern called the Boeing Company.

Louis Marsh retired from Boeing in 1945 and in 1968 he donated the waterfront portion of his land to the City of Kirkland. It is Marsh Park today.

Upon his death in 1980, Mr. Marsh left his property to the Children's Home Society. In 1985, the charity sold the estate to Wallace and Clarice Hall who operated the mansion as a tea room and began to further develop the site, before they were halted by financial difficulties.

The new owners plan to continue the development there which will include 19 townhouses that will be sold at prices ranging from \$1.2 million to \$2 million. A spokesman for the new owners said the mansion will be restored in a manner faithful to its original configuration.

Cash and Carry

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5-10-10 'Pep' Fertilizer	100 lbs. 3.00
Sodium Nitrate	100 lbs. 3.50
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Hort. Canadian Peat Moss (Bale)	3.50

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132nd and Blacktop Highway

QUEEN ANNE STYLE

Gracious and informal, these homes are picturesque, with wrap-around raised porches and turrets. In Kirkland, there are a few pure Queen Anne homes, most built in 1889, west of Market Street. By the time the style arrived here, it had become adapted to other house styles such that details can also be found on Vernacular style homes.



Identifying Features

Steeply pitched roof of irregular shape, usually with a dominant front facing dormer. No smooth wall surfaces - patterned shingles sometimes changing with each level.

Two to three story building, not symmetrical in form. Partial or full width porch, on story high, often extending along a side wall.

Classical details used as window and door surrounds, and especially in the porch design.



Kellet/Harris House

Bay windows typically 'cut-away' from the wall below the main gable to accent the form and wood detailing.

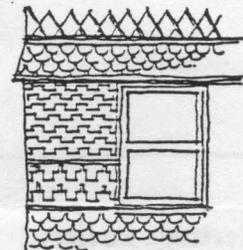


Loomis House

Key Elements

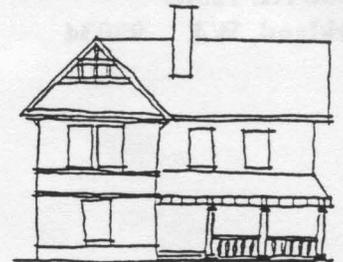
Siding

A variety of materials including shingles, brick, and horizontal siding is appropriate. Aluminum or synthetic siding is not appropriate.



Porches

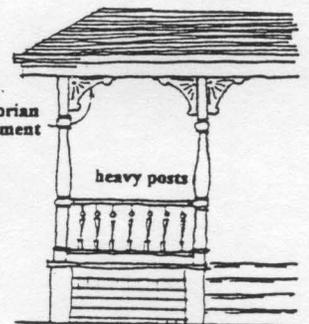
Queen Anne houses lose much of their grace when porches and details are removed.



Ornamentation

Porch and dormer details are often fanciful and mix classical and floral ornamentation. In remodeling, avoid blocky, heavy details.

Victorian ornament



The sketches and descriptions of these two styles were used with permission by the City of Everett from the report entitled, *Rucker/Grand Avenue Historic Neighborhood Conservation Handbook*, prepared by Makers for the Everett Historical Commission.

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