

Blackberry Preserves

The Journal of the
Kirkland Heritage Society



Volume III., Issue 6

June, 1995

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Kirkland Heritage Society

President's Message

By

Bob Burke

When Barbara Loomis resigned as KHS president, a year and a half ago, Corey Kahler, then vice president, efficiently assumed the responsibility as president. His style has been to recognize the individual contribution of members and to emphasize the team effort of the board and committees. He has kept us focused on our mission. With the election at the last meeting his term of office ends. On behalf of the membership, I want to extend our thanks for a job well done! Corey will continue on the board as past president.

I also want to thank Alan Stein who brought to the election for president a strong voice for not only researching and collecting the history of the people who shaped Kirkland, but also making that history more accessible to everyone. With Alan continuing on the board as vice president, those key elements of KHS' mission will be well represented.

Our expanded--to seven members--board of directors will include continuing members: Matt McCauley, communications officer; and Laura Westlund, treasurer; as well as new members: Barbara Loomis, secretary; and Loita Hawkinson, at-large. This combination of people and interests will provide the Kirkland Heritage Society with strong leadership.

Finally, I want to thank you for the opportunity to be president for the next two years! In the three years since KHS began, we have been able to achieve a great deal, to obtain county and state recognition for quality efforts and to gain credibility within our community. Our challenge is to continue to expand our efforts while maintaining our quality and credibility. We will be able to do that with the effective involvement of all our members.

Meetings and Events

By

Jeanne Bartels and Hazel Kelly

June Program

Architectural Walking Tour

June 28, 1995, 7 pm

Meet at the First Congregational Church of Kirkland, 106 5th Ave.

We are in the process of updating our *Tour Brochure of Kirkland*. Join us for an evening stroll on the Historic Kirkland Walking Tour. Step back in time as we follow the tour laid out by the Kirkland Historic Commission ten years ago. Enjoy a glimpse of the preserved treasures east and west of Market Street and learn about their history. See what else has been included in the tour!

Calendar of Events

KHS Board/Committee Meeting:

Wednesday, June 28, 6 pm First Congregational Church of Kirkland. 106 5th Ave.

June-Architectural Walking Tour:

Wednesday, June 28, 7 pm First Congregational Church of Kirkland (See article for details).

Oral History Committee: Saturday, July 1, 2-4 pm at Lorraine McConaghy's home, 12121 NE 66th St. Kirkland.

July 8th & 9th, Kirkland Festival of the Arts: KHS will again have a booth at

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the Kirkland Festival of the Arts, July 8th and 9th at Parkplace Shopping Center. It is a great community event. Visit our exhibit!

July-Historic Kirkland Cemetery

Tour: Wednesday, July 26 7 pm. Alan Stein will conduct a tour of the historic Kirkland Cemetery. He will provide stories and information on the many pioneers who are buried there. It is now planned to meet at the cemetery at 7 pm.

KHS Membership over 70

By
Barbara Loomis

As a result of the Kirkland Chamber of Commerce auction, the special effort to get business and professional members and our continuing general membership effort we now have 72 members. (A 75 % increase over last year!) Thanks to everyone for your interest and support!

At the Chamber Auction we donated three memberships with the historic photographs and the hand-made, wooden toy trucks crafted by Myron Lewis.

Congratulations to the successful bidders:

Michaele Muse (a year's renewal)

P.K. MacDonald

Hazel Russell

We are pleased to include in the Professional/Business category:

Rick Driftmier, Driftmier Architects,
P.S.

We also welcome the following individual and family members:

Betty & James Spieth

Cassandra Nobel

Rose Marie Hill/Golden Grads

Myra Gamburg

Welcome all and thank you for your support.

Bylaws Adopted

The new bylaws were adopted at the April meeting. Thank you to all who have

helped and everyone who called with comments.

Thank You:

City of Kirkland Fire Department and Battalion Chief Rex Lindquist

Our May membership meeting was held at the new Kirkland Fire Department Museum at Station #26. **Battalion Chief Rex Lindquist** shared with us the history of the men and equipment that have made up the Kirkland fire Department. He showed us a video about the department's past and present and then we toured the fascinating museum display that he and the Moss Bay Society of Fire History members are putting together. Thank you Rex and also to **Charlotte DeVore** for bringing *homemade* chocolate chip cookies.

Members Receive Recognition From Association of King County Historical Organizations

Barbara Loomis and Bob Burke received a Project Award on May 30 at West Seattle's historic Admiral Theater for their volunteer effort on the report *Historic Preservation, City of Kirkland*. King County Councilman Greg Nichols noted in his presentation the document's use by the Kirkland Growth Management Commission and City Council.

Alan Stein was recognized with a certificate at the same event for his work on the *Eastside Journal* database. His award was presented by Bob Gruhn, who chairs the King County Heritage and Landmarks Commission.

The Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO) was formed in 1977 and has over 80 member organizations, including KHS, and 60 individual members.

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Please Renew KHS Membership Now

By now you should have received your membership renewal notice for next year (July 1, 1995--June 30, 1996). At the May membership meeting we voted to keep the dues at the same rate as this year.

Memberships provide the primary financial and volunteer support for KHS. When you are sending in the membership form, please consider becoming a sustaining member or providing an extra contribution to provide added support for our expanding efforts. Also, please consider volunteering for one of the committees or special projects listed on the form.

Thanks for your continued support!

Interested in Helping on a Committee? Here's your chance!

Our bylaws require that Committee Chairs be appointed by the president and approved by the board before the July meeting. We would like to have co-chairs for each of the standing committees: Archives/Collections; Education/Research; Planning/Historic Sites; Membership/Funding; and Programs.

Tales from the *East Side Journal* By Alan Stein

This month's article originally ran in the July 26, 1967, East Side Journal and describes a 1921 issue discovered in the wall of an old home.

What makes this article historically significant are two things: 1) the 1921 issue is 'missing.' This issue is neither on microfilm nor is it bound in the volumes; and 2) It happens to be the issue which

reported the fire and subsequent destruction of the original Rose Hill Elementary School. (The second Rose Hill Elementary School was built in 1922 and demolished by the Lake Washington School District last year).

If any of you have old issues of the ESJ please let me know--821-0164. It could be one of the missing issues, and may contain important information like this one. If so, we would like to make a copy for the library, so that others have access to the newspapers.

Issues from the early 1920s are not in the collection. Most of the 1939-41 issues are also missing, possibly due to wartime paper drives.

Enough editorializing. Enjoy a peek at Kirkland from almost 75 years ago.

Found in wall, paper recalls 1921 history

Some bits of local history were gleaned by a Redmond man from a 1921 East Side Journal he recently found in a wall of a house he formerly owned on Rose Hill.

He is C. Phillip Shepherd, now of 16607 NE 79th St.

The newspaper, dated June 23, 1921, relates the burning of a former Rose Hill school and tells about a Fourth of July celebration. Also chronicled on Page 1 is a "Chautauqua" (movie--[sic]coming to Kirkland and a visit to Kirkland by the state's then lieutenant governor, W.J. Coyle.

The paper outlines the June 17, 1921, fire which destroyed the Rose Hill school:

"A big picnic and field day was held Friday under the auspices of the Parent-Teacher Association. It was 9 o'clock before everything was put away and the last of the picnickers left.

"At 10 o'clock Mrs. Allen discovered the flames...a number of citizens began fighting the flames...the flames were brought under control and were thought completely conquered.

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"After going home for his keys, E.A. Norton, principal, found upon his return to the school house that the fire had again broken out...

"...Everything was totally consumed except the school victrola."

The paper heralds a Fourth of July celebration with an opening paragraph that says:

"That the East Side is by no means dead or at all unlively on the Fourth of July is guaranteed by local enthusiasts, who promise a big day for that day."

The article outlines races, contests, a baseball game, band and other feature attractions of the celebration.

Tickets were selling like "hot cakes" for the then upcoming season of chautauqua presentations in Kirkland, the 1921 newspaper told its readers.

The then Lt. Governor Coyle was to visit Kirkland as part of the biggest "demonstration tour of the West," according to the paper. The tour was a caravan of farm tractors intended to demonstrate advantages of mechanized farming.

Shepard said the 1921 newspaper had been addressed to "Ed Johnson" in a house then belonging to the late Charles Bengston.

KHS Supports Chamber of Commerce Auction

By
Myron Lewis

The Kirkland Heritage Society participated in the recent fund raising auction sponsored by the **Greater Kirkland Chamber of Commerce**. KHS member and architect, **Myron Lewis**, designed, fabricated from architectural wood moldings, and donated three 1920s style model wooden vehicles as auction items. Each vehicle, (fire truck, bookmobile and

ambulance), was accompanied by a complimentary membership in the KHS and by historic Kirkland photos provided by KHS and the **Kirkland Fire Department**.

The fire truck package also included a CPR training program provided by the **Kirkland Fire Department** and a book on the history of American fire trucks, donated by **Kirkland Fire Chief Tom Fieldstead**. The library bookmobile package included an Internet training program sponsored by the **Kirkland Library**, a book entitled *Above Seattle*, donated by **Park Place Book Company** and a commemorative Tee shirt provided by the **King County Library System**. The ambulance package was accompanied by a health care training program provided by **Evergreen Hospital Medical Center** and an industrial grade first aid kit donated by **Woods Lakeshore Pharmacy**. Wood moldings for the vehicles were supplied by **Dunn Lumber Company** and engraved metal nameplates were provided by **Academy Recognition Services**.

Purchasers of the three vehicle packages, and now new members of the KHS are: **Micheale Muse**, (fire truck); **Hazel Russell**, (Bookmobile) and **P.K. MacDonald**, (Ambulance). The auction, held at the Woodmark Hotel, was a huge success, raising \$23,000 of which \$5000 will go to the **Kirkland Performance Center**.

From the Editor

By

Matt McCauley

Miss Ruth Nelson, 91, formerly of Juanita, died on June 5 at the Cascade Vista Convalescent Center in Redmond where she had lived for the past two years.

Miss Nelson taught school for many years in both Kirkland and Juanita and will be fondly remembered by several generations

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of former students and many other members of the community as well.

She was born in 1903 in her family's home in Juanita. Her parents, Anders and Laura Nillson, who immigrated from Sweden in 1886, built the house in 1902 on their property--located at the northwest corner of the NE 132nd and 100th Ave NE where the Juanita Albertson's has stood since 1970. She attended Juanita Grade School, Kirkland High School, Bellingham Normal School--today's Western Washington University--and the University of Washington.

She made important contributions to local history by sharing her memories. She narrated several tape recorded oral history interviews, the last being that of the city-sponsored Kirkland History Project.

Probably her most notable contribution was the map of early Juanita she drew during the 1960s entitled: *Juanita A Remember When' Map Circa 1900-1918*.

'Old time' Juanita people all seem to have a copy of that map; most have the first edition, which is hand-colored, it is often framed and hanging on their wall.

Thanks to Miss Nelson's efforts, much about Juanita's past has been preserved, often the type of information that might otherwise have been forgotten. For example, according to her map, there was a body marked with a white cross buried sort of up behind where the Chocolate Soup Bagel shop stands today. She noted that Eliza Forbes had said the grave was there when she and her husband, Dorr, came to Juanita in 1877. This is intriguing stuff, but just one of many valuable bits she recorded on her map.

And on another sad note, I'm sorry to report that KHS member **Donald Watson** passed away last month.

Mr. Watson had lived in Kirkland for 75 of his 76 years, not counting the time he

spent away during his World War II service where he was a decorated infantryman.

Mr. Watson graduated from Kirkland High School in 1937 and worked in Kirkland as a postal letter carrier until 1974 and then worked for Eastside Brokers until his retirement until 1981.

I'm sure the rest of KHS' membership joins me in extending our condolences to **Mrs. Dorothy Watson** and the rest of the Watson family.

Noteworthy New Members

Two of our newest members are no strangers to Kirkland or its history.

Rose Marie Hill, representing the Golden Grads, is that group's newsletter editor and organizer.

Quite simply, the *Golden Grads Newsletter* is the most valuable source of Kirkland's historical information available today.

For those of you new to the area who are not familiar with the Golden Grads, the Kirkland Golden Grads Association was formed in 1990 to bring together those individuals who graduated from or attended Kirkland High School, Junior High or elementary school fifty years ago or longer.

One of the really interesting things about the two 27 to 35 page newsletters Mrs. Hill--herself a 1940 KHS grad--puts out each year is that they contain correspondence from the members, who often reminisce about their childhoods and youths in Kirkland and the what were then outlying communities of Juanita, Rose Hill, Houghton, etc., as well as The Points area.

Needless to say, these recollections are valuable and ~~the~~ range from light-hearted to quite serious. Here's a poignant excerpt from a man who graduated in 1933 and left town, writing about returning to his old home in the Five Corners area (NE 116th and 124th Ave. NE):

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...we went to Five Corners so I could see the old area. When I saw what changes had taken place, I was disgusted and somewhat broken-hearted. The people who live there could see the year after year of changes, but by coming there after not seeing it for many years, the change was a shock to me. There is a service station on Mrs. Spees' property and as you said, a Jack-in-the-Box where our house stood. The Firestone store is where we had our park because of the trees and shade, and where our baby lambs romped. Condos on the back of the property and a cement parking lot all over our garden area and the strawberry patch. I walked up to the slope where our berries used to be, but didn't go over the top of the slope to see if the water well my father had dug had been filled in.

"I realize progress is necessary and inevitable, and changes do occur in sixty years. I sadly stood there in the middle of the cement parking lot, alone, reminiscent of the past, recalling the serenity, quiet, peaceful area where one day on my way to catch the bus for grade school, a beautiful big deer ran in front of me, jumped a high fence and disappeared into the woods. I remembered that sometimes at night we would hear the coyotes howling in the hills behind us. I got into the car and we left immediately. I very much doubt if I will ever return to Five Corners again."

Another notable new member is the well-known retired local newspaperman, **Charles O. "Chuck" Morgan**.

Mr. Morgan came to Kirkland in 1946 after working on a California newspaper and prior to that he had served during the war with the Signal Corps in Alaska.

He joined the staff of the old *East Side Journal* as news editor and became a partner in the Kirkland Publishing Company--which owned the paper--in 1950. In 1958 Mr.

Morgan became the paper's publisher, after purchasing the interest of Walt Irvine. At that time Mr. Irvine said, "Mr. Morgan is probably better informed on local affairs than any other individual."

At that same time, Mr. Morgan said, "It is my sincere belief that Kirkland and vicinity has a great future and I am willing to do everything possible personally and within the ability of the *Journal* to help achieve that end."

And he did.

Remember too, newspapers serve as the 'first draft of history.' Chuck Morgan not only recorded an especially important period of Kirkland's development, but he also ran stories about local history, including pieces about the recollections of senior citizens and he frequently ran old photos of Kirkland that were 'Brought into the Journal office by so-and-so...'

We've learned a lot about our photo collection from the captions in those old *Journals*.

Another important contribution Mr. Morgan made was saving bound volumes of all of the paper's back issues-- sans a few years here and there from before he was with the paper.



A MARKED ADDITION

to Kirkland and its business district, is the J. C. Penney Company and their fine new building.

IT

Marks Progress

Success

To it and Kirkland!

John Wester

Contractor—Builder
Kirkland, Wash.

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 827-7194.

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